

Educational (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 355

Dated 29 6 97

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Receiving, with remarks, a letter from the
L.P.I. forwarding the explanation of the Bureau
on Oriental Manuscripts Library, as to
the causes which operated to reduce the
number of MS required.

18/97

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

EDUCATIONAL

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

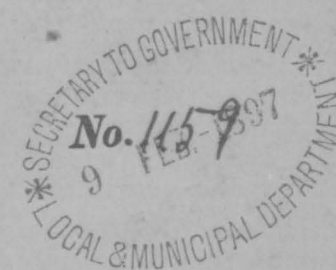
CURRENT No. 167

400-1/96



From The Dir. of Pub. Instruction, Madras.

Order.



Dated 6th February 1897.

Received 9-2-97

Registered 10-2-97

Enclosures nil.

Spare copies nil.

SUBJECT.

Submitting with reference to G.O. Nos. 400, 401 dated 6th July 1896 a letter from the Curator, Oriental Manuscripts Library explaining the causes that operated to reduce the number of manuscripts acquired for the library.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	400/1	Edu	6/7/96 mis
	225	"	8/4/96 mis
	535	"	25/6/95 20
	552/3	"	1/8/94 20
	415/15A	"	22/6/93 mis
	487/8	"	28/6/92 mis
	737/8	"	21/9/91 mis
	757/8	"	20/11/90 mis

Back

FURTHER PAPERS. contd

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	546/7	Edu	6/9/89 mis
	470/1	"	10/8/88 "
	423/4	"	13/8/87 20

No 43

12th August
1896
Madras.

From

M. Ishagiri Sastri,

Curator, Fort. Oriental Manuscripts Library,

To

The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Madras.

Sir,

With reference to para 3 of the Proceedings of the Government of Madras, No 400. Educational, dated 6th July last, calling upon me to report whether any preventible causes have operated to reduce the number of manuscripts acquired for the Library, and whether this number cannot be increased, I have the honor to bring to your kind consideration the following facts, most respectfully and humbly.

1. The remark of the Director of Public Instruction, which appears in para 2 of his review of my Annual Report on the working of the Library for the last year, viz "It is a matter of much regret that there has been a steady fall in the number of books acquired for the Library. . . . The number fell from 331 in 1893-94, to 248 in 1894-95, and to 197 in 1895-96" is, in my humble opinion, not strictly correct.

2. Notwithstanding the fact that there has been a decrease for the last two years in the number of manuscripts, the lowest number is 180, subtracting 17 which

which is the number of manuscripts acquired through Dr. Kultysch from the total number 197; and the number is more than double the average number already approved by the Director of Public Instruction, and this fact is quite ignored in the review of my Annual Report for the last year.

4. The following figures are given for the sake of comparison.

Statement showing the numbers of MSS transcribed, purchased, and presented in each of the three years preceding my appointment to the Curatorship of the Library in May 1893, and for each of the three years after the apptt.

	1890-91	1891-92	1892-93	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96
Transcribed	49	37	6	23	42	62
Purchased	0	16	36	104	73	39
Presented	0	26	43	204	123	79
	49	79	85	331	248	180

5. Referring to the 79 manuscripts collected during 1891-92, the following remarks occur in the Director's review of the Annual Report of Dr. Oppert for that year: "The Acting Director can easily understand the difficulties in the way of acquiring new manuscripts.

* * * Considering his limited means and opportunities, the additions made by Dr. Oppert were probably as much as could be made during the year."

Again, referring to the 85 manuscripts collected during 1892-93, the Director of Public Instruction

Instruction says in his review of the Annual Report of the Library for that year, "Considering the difficulty in the way of persuading owners of manuscripts to part with their manuscripts, the advance in the number of purchases made and gifts obtained, is very gratifying."

6 From the above remarks we understand that during the years 1891-92 and 1892-93 only 79 and 85 manuscripts respectively were acquired for the Library, and the Director of Public Instruction was satisfied with the numbers, and that he, however, expresses his regret in his review of the Annual Report of the Library for the last year in which I collected 180 manuscripts. I beg to state, therefore, that the remark of the Director of Public Instruction, that it is a matter of much regret that there has been a steady fall in the number of manuscripts acquired for the Library is not strictly correct, as it proceeds from the application to the number of manuscripts acquired by me, of a different standard of test from that applied to the acquisition of the previous years, and produces a wrong impression that the number of the manuscripts acquired by me is considerably less than what can be acquired in a year according to the opinion of the Director of Public Instruction expressed in previous years.

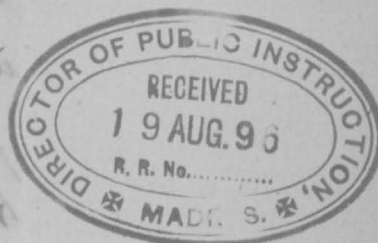
In conclusion, I beg to state most respectfully that there was no lack of activity either on my part or on the part of the Pandits to procure manuscripts for the library either by purchase or gift, and that the number of manuscripts acquired during the past year, is in my humble opinion, and, ~~even~~ if it be considered by the standard of test adopted

adopted in previous years, not unsatisfactory, and I think that the fall in the number of manuscripts acquired as compared with those of the preceding years, is merely accidental; and, I hope, it will not recur.

I have the honor to remain,
Sir

Your most obedient servant,
K. Seshagiri Sastri

Curator,
Government Oriental Manuscripts Library.



CURRENT No. 167

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras, 6th February 1897.

No. 1159.

From

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D. Sc., LL.D.,

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras,

To

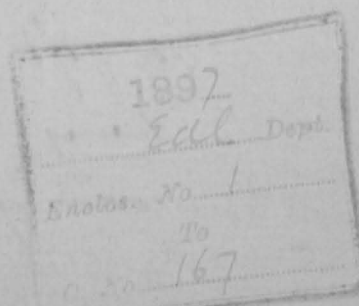
The Secretary to Government,

Local & Municipal Department.

SIR,

With reference to paragraph 3 of G.O. No 400, Educational, dated 6th July last, I have the honour to submit a letter addressed to Government from the Curator, Oriental Manuscripts Library No 43 dated 12th August last. In September I called for information on the subject of his letter; but this information was received only on the 25th ^{ultimo} instant after two reminders had been sent to him. Hence the delay in submitting his letter to Government.

2. I am unable to agree with M.E. Ry. Seshagiri Sastriyar in his opinion that his work has not been judged according to the same standard as that used during Dr. Oppert's time. During the four years 1886-87 to 1889-90 Dr. Oppert obtained 330, 552, 176 and 205 manuscripts respectively for the library. In 1890-91 however he represented that there was no space in the then library room for any more collections and that several valuable manuscripts which through want of binding and old age were in a precarious condition should be immediately restored. He was accordingly permitted to utilize the grant of Rs. 600 for the year in transcribing and rebinding such of them as were in an injured condition. Only 49 manuscripts were therefore obtained during that year. During the two succeeding years ^{only} 79 and 85 manuscripts were acquired. While fully alive to the difficulty of acquiring manuscripts



This is not
met. only
8 mps were
acquired during
1890-91-

I was not satisfied with the small sum of Rs.10 spent on the purchase of manuscripts in 1890-91 and in my review of the report for 1891-92 I noticed the increase in the number of manuscripts obtained by purchase during the year as compared with that during the previous year, but did not at all consider that the number obtained during that year, viz. 85, was satisfactory.

The Curator's remarks that it was accepted as satisfactory and that his work has not been judged by the same standard as that by which Dr. Oppert's work was judged seems to me, therefore both out of place and not strictly correct. I had known M.P. Py. Seshagiri for years as a willing and conscientious worker and my observation regarding the decrease in the number of manuscripts acquired was not intended to disparage his work but to require him to see that the members of the library establishment did their duty.

36-87-330 3. Comparing the number obtained during 1895-96 with
87-88-552 4
88-89-176 the average for the ten years 86-87 to 95-96, it must be
89-90-205
90-91-49 admitted that the former is below the average. I could not
91-92-79
92-93-85 see why, when it was possible to obtain as many as 331
93-94-331
94-95-298 4 in 1893-94 it was not possible to obtain at least an
95-96-180
2285 equal or an approximate number in the succeeding years.
Average 228.

The Curator says that the collection of manuscripts depends upon chance and that he was able to collect so large a number in 1893-94 because in that year the library of a Pandit came into the possession of some illiterate relatives who were persuaded by the Curator to sell or present many of the manuscripts to the library. I cannot admit that the collection of manuscripts depends so much on chance as he seems to think. If systematic tours had been arranged for I do not think that the number collected would have fallen from 298 in 1894-95 to 180 in 1895-96. Giving due allowance for what he calls chance, the fall in the number of collections is too large to be explained on that hypothesis.

4. It is reported that during the years 1893-94, 94-95 & 95-96 Pandits were sent out in search of manuscripts only for 2 months 7 days, 2 months 7 days, 2 months & 10 days respectively. I should think that if they had been out for longer periods a large number of manuscripts would have been acquired. The continued absence of the vernacular munshi and the change of hands probably prevented the Curator from arranging for longer tours by the Pandits. As the

scale of establishment has since been revised and permanent arrangements made, I hope he will be able to show a better record in future.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S. Durian

Director of Public Instruction.

I was not satisfied with the small sum of Rs.10 spent on the purchase of manuscripts in 1890-91 and in my review of the

1,000-14-12-96.

C. No. 167 of 97

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.

THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.

Educational DEPARTMENT.

SUBJECT.

Acquisition of mss. for the Govt.
Oriental mss. library.

FOR ORDERS.

In reviewing the report on the Govt. Oriental mss. Library for 1895-96, the D.P.I. remarked that there was a steady fall in the number of manuscripts acquired for the library — from 331 in 1893-94 to 248 in 1894-95 and to 197 in 1895-96. This attracted the attention of Govt. and in para 3 of G.O. no. 400 Ed D 6th July 1896 the Curator was requested to report whether any preventible causes had operated to reduce the number of manuscripts acquired and whether that number could not be increased. In reply the Curator states that the fall in the fall in the number of manuscripts acquired was merely accidental and expresses the hope that it will not recur. This seems

sufficient explanation but the Curator goes further and states that his work has not been judged by the D.P.I. according to the same standard as that used during Dr Oppert's time. In support of this he states that during 1890-91, 1891-92 & 1892-93, Dr Oppert acquired 49, 79, & 85 manuscripts ^{respectively} & that his work was considered satisfactory. The D.P.I. notes that during the four years 1886-87 to 1889-90 Dr. Oppert acquired 330, 552, 176 & 205 mss. respectively and that in 1890-91 he was specially permitted to utilise the allotment for the acquisition of mss in transcribing and rebinding old and injured mss in the library. This appears to be correct. The D.P.I. further states that he was not satisfied with the small sum of Rs 10 spent on the purchase of mss in 1891-92 & that in his review of Dr Oppert's report for 1892-93 he noticed the number of mss obtained by purchase during the year as compared with that during the previous year (1891-92) but that

he did not consider that the number of mss acquired during the year was satisfactory.

It may be noted that in his review of the report for 1891-92, the D.P.I. noted that the duty of searching for mss had been transferred to the Govt. Epigraphist and observed that "considering his limited means and opportunities, the additions made by Dr Oppert were probably as much as could be made during the year".

In his review of the report for 1892-93, the D.P.I. noted that 85 mss were added to the library as against 79 in the previous year and observed that "considering the difficulties in the way of persuading owners to part with their mss, the advance in the number of purchases made and gifts obtained is very gratifying".

These remarks it is respectfully submitted do not read as if the Director were dissatisfied with the no. of mss. acquired. However this may be the Curator's ~~complaint~~ ^{complaint} that his work has not been

The 'personal equation' accounts for the difference between the 815 mss in the operation of the 2 mss

judged as that of Dr. Oppert appears to be uncalled for and out of place in the explanation he was called on to submit.

The work of the Curator cannot be submitted be accurately estimated by the mere number of mss acquired during a year. It may perhaps be better judged by the rarity and usefulness of the mss acquired but no information on these points is available and it might be considered whether the Curator should not be directed to give information on these points in future reports. It might also be stated in the reports whether copies of the mss acquired during the year were not already in the library and if there were, what was the reason for acquiring duplicate copies. Manuscripts are now acquired indiscriminately and to show a larger number of acquisition incomplete mss and mss containing one or two pages only are also acquired. These are however matters which must of necessity be left to

Please see lists marked in
SO 400 Col 4 SO 535 Col -
6-7-96 25-6-95.

the discretion and good sense of the Curator.

MA
10/1/97

1151.

Of course as years go on the no. of mss. acquired may be expected to decline. The first exploration of the field will be most fruitful. On the other hand experience should indicate where search ~~is~~ is likely to be most successful. But in any case results will always be liable to considerable fluctuation.

I think it will be sufficient to record the ~~correspondence~~ correspondence with this remark that it is observed that the Curator ~~does not~~ anticipates better results for the future.

J. L. 1/6/97

Yes, this should be also remarked that the observations in the last column of the list should be a little fuller & give some idea as to the rarity & usefulness of the mss. This is especially necessary with respect to incomplete & very short mss. It should always be noted whether copies of the acquired mss are already in the Library.

JL
6/6/97

Ed DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated 6th July 1896, No. 400
Again G.O., dated 189, No.
Current No. 167 of 1897, dated 6th July from the D.P.I.
" " " 189 " " "
" " " 189 " " "

ORDER. N^o 355 of 29-6-97
ms.

Recorded, ^{the Post-Trusts} with the remark
that it is observed that the
Curator's anticipations of better results
for the future will be realized
2. In future the observations in
the last column of the list of
ms. acquired which is appended
to the annual report on the library
should be ^{complete} a little fuller and give
some ^{idea} as to the rarity, usefulness
and other characteristics of the
manuscripts. This is especially necessary
with respect to incomplete and
very short ^{manuscripts} mss. It should also
be stated always whether copies of
the newly acquired mss. ^{are} ~~were~~ ^{are}
already in the library.

(from orders)

7/10/97

To The D.P.I. 1897

There is a column showing
the ^{in future reports}
~~ms. acquired~~
~~for the library~~