

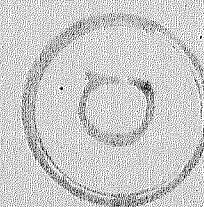
Educational (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 149-150

DATED 13.3.95

INDEXED.



13-14

[Despatch Abstract.]

Addressing Mr C. J. Lyall, India Office,
London regarding the period of Mr
Combes' stay in England on deputation
and his allowances during that period

113/15/15

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

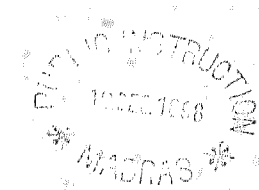
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

G.O. 9
0-11-8-98.

Rhs 17310 of 98

Col (1898) Department.

D. O. No. 50/11



From

The Secretary, Provincial & Public Dept. India office

D.O. Quot. No 56 of 3.12.98

Referred to the Director
of Public Instruction for report.

(By order)

Aldington.

Ag Asst Secretary.

7/12
2-12-98

9/12
2/12/98

11/12/98

No.

Dated

11

Received 28

11.

98

Registered 29

In Col. 30-11-98

Enclosures two

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Re the Deputation to England
of Mr. F.W. Coombes to study
Technical and Art Subjects

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	399	5-7-98	21
	149	5-3-98	31

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

COPY MEMO: BY SIR GEORGE BIRDWOOD,

DATED 3rd OCTOBER, 1898.

In accordance with Mr. Sturt's instructions I gave the requisite introduction- (to A.J.R. Hendell, Esq., C.M.G.- Assistant Secretary, Science and Art Department, South Kensington Museum)- to Mr. Coombes- but I did so under the depressing conviction that it was thrown away.

When I ventured to support the application of the Madras Government for permission to send Mr. Coombes to this country on half-pay for two years' study at South Kensington in technical and Art subjects, I was naturally under the impression that Mr. Coombes had shewn marked ability in some special department of applied art, and had made a study of the historical industries of the Madras Presidency; and I took it for granted that he was to qualify himself here for the purpose of becoming a pioneer teacher in the technical schools which I understood the Madras Government were about to establish in the Presidency

with

with a view to better adapting their traditional local industries to the needs of the modern world.

But after a long and very searching conversation with Mr. Coombes I am sorry to say I find that he has no clearly defined idea of what he wants to learn. He informed me that he should like to study for the "Art Class Teacher's Certificate". I, therefore, asked him to give me a specimen of his skill in drawing. I attach his attempted sketch of my gum bottle. It shows him not only to be destitute of elementary training, but to have no natural capacity for draughtsmanship. The man who painfully scratched his hesitating way through this feeble, pointless sketch will never develop the spontaneous, firm and expressive touch essential to the success of the decorative designer.

His knowledge of science would appear, from what I could gather, to be limited to chemistry- in which he gained the gold medal- whatever distinction that may confer- of the Madras College.

Mr. Coombes seems to be fairly intelligent, but I have completely failed to discover any special reason for

his

his having been sent to this country.

With his very defective elementary training in "art subjects" it will be impossible for him to obtain the Art Class Teacher's Certificate within two years. For this certificate he must pass in the following subjects;

1. Perspective-
2. Advanced drawing in outline from the cast-
3. Advanced shading from models-
4. Advanced Drawing in Light and Shade from the Cast, and
5. Practical Plane and Solid Geometry.

In addition he must submit four satisfactory works on sheets of Imperial paper, and have them all passed-namely:-

(a) Six or eight Geometrical problems worked with instruments and in ink-

(b) An outline in pencil of low relief ornament-

(c) A drawing made from a group of models, Wedgwood and Minton Vases and the like, placed on a flat drawing board, and without any background, the drawing to be shaded in chalk, or pencil or ink ("sepia so-called"),

(d) A shaded drawing in chalk, pencil, or ink from a piece of ornament in high relief, or from casts of fruit.

Few students obtain this full certificate under from three to four years. The examination is really a very

difficult

difficult one requiring considerable knowledge of, and skill in, draughtsmanship- and- for success in after life- an inborn adjustment of eye and hand, and of temperament and character.

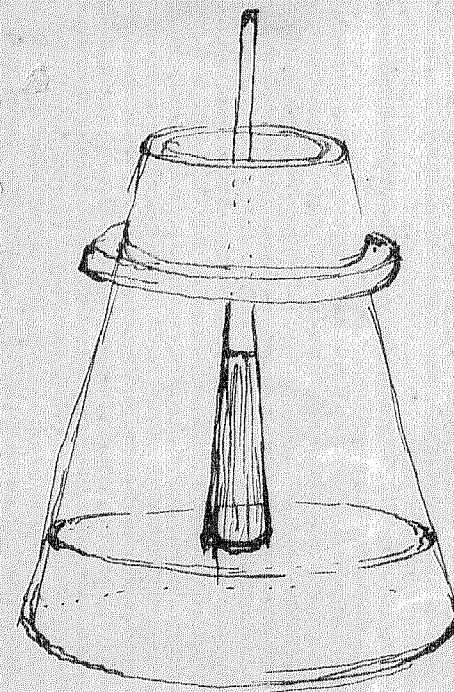
And I must point out that it is also a certificate that could just as easily have been taken in one of the Indian Schools of Art as here- that is if honest teaching is being given in the Indian schools.

Mr. Coombes' deputation would in short appear to be entirely for the purpose of obtaining this certificate- to aid him in gaining a decently paid post in the Madras School of Art, or some similar institution. He is a good honest fellow himself, of the flabby dependent type, and is anxious to get on;- but not in the way of enlarging his knowledge for the sake of knowledge, but simply as a stepping stone to promotion in the service.

Incidentally Mr. Coombes mentioned that he wished to also study pottery, and other technical subjects, and I suggested his, in due time, joining the practical classes in the Battersea Institution, and this I hope he will do. But I asked him a few questions as to Madras Pottery, and

the

the kinds of clay found in the Presidency suitable for pottery. He at once confessed that his mind was an utter blank on the whole subject, and that he knew nothing regarding the pottery of his native country, theoretically or practically, technically or artistically.



Drawn by Mr. Gumbey
Thursday 29 Sep/80
204

INDIA OFFICE
HYDRABAD

India 16 20 Sep/80



India Office
11th November 1898.
CHIEF SECRETARY
28 NOV. 1898
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

My Dear Sir,

With reference to the correspondence regarding the deputation to this Country of Mr. J. W. Coombes, recommended by the Madras Government in their letter No. 2 (Educational) dated the 24th March last, and sanctioned by the Secretary of State in his despatch No. 2 dated the 26th May, I enclose a copy of a note by Sir George Birdwood, who saw Mr. Coombes on his arrival and gave him introductions to the Authorities at South Kensington. This note seems to indicate that Mr. Coombes is unlikely to obtain the Art Class teacher's certificate

The Honourable Mr. Gabriel Stokes,
Chief Secretary to the Government
of Madras.

which

Encl. to 30/1/98

21/11/98

which he seeks within the two years for which his stay in England has been arranged.

His allowance, moreover, the equivalent of Rs.55 a month, is very small, and hardly adequate for his support in London during the period of study - It is estimated that £10 a month is the least sum which will meet the expenses of an Indian student in London. Would you kindly let me know whether, in view of Sir George Birdwood's opinion, the Madras Government think it desirable that Mr. Coombes should remain in England for the full period of two years, and if not what they would propose in regard to him?

I

I shall then be in a position to lay the matter before the Secretary of State.

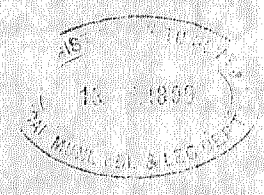
Yours faithfully,

Chyall
Secretary, Indian Public Dept.

Q. 28.2.99

Educational (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 258



From the Director of Public Instruction
Madras.

In Orders

is to what answer should be given to
Mr. Lyall. The letter to the S. of S.
explained the object of Mr. Coomber's
application, & it would seem that
so much has been expected of him
As the D.P.I. points out it was never
expected or intended that he
should become a pioneer teacher
in the Madras technical schools,
& it is submitted that it was
unreasonable to expect that a man
in Mr. Coomber's position would
have taken a voyage to England
merely for the purpose of enlarging
his knowledge for the sale

Flag A. No. 1820

Dated 13th February 1899.

Received
Registered 14.2.99

Enclosures 2 (in original)

Spare copies in a separate
envelope

SUBJECT.

Submitting remarks in regard
to the extension of Mr. Coomber's
stay in England on deputation
and recommending that he be
given two-thirds of his pay, &
on deputation, under art. 103 of the
Civil Service Regulations.

233
16/2/99

P.P.O.

value of knowledge."

In D.P. I says that if the two years
already granted to Mr. Coombes
not sufficient he will be prepared
to recommend him for another
year's leave, but it seems to be
doubtful whether the S. of S. would
sanction this. The recommendation

of the D.P.I. that Mr. Coombes be
given two thirds of his pay instead
of half may perhaps be accepted.

Al
2.12/99

H.M.

yes - a copy of Director's letter
may go to Sir C. S. G. H.
H.T. saying for agreement in
22.2.99 Director's view except a
to an extension.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

25.2.99

CURRENT No. 258

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras, 13th February 1899.

No. 1820

From

THE HONORABLE MR. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.S.C., LL.D.,

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras,

To

The Secretary to Government,
Educational Department,
Fort. St. George;

SIR,

I have the honour to return endorsement
No. 56, Educational, dated 3rd December 1898, with
the following remarks.

2. In my letter No. 14123, dated 17th December
1897, recorded in G.O. No. 149, Educational, dated
5th March 1898, the special certificates held by
Mr. Coombes have been specially mentioned and
his deputation to England was recommended
solely with a view to enable him to improve his
attainments in technical and art subjects
and thus to qualify better for such a post as
that of Dy. Superintendentship of the Reformatory
School, &c., for which no suitable candidate
is available should the present incumbent take
leave or retire. I ~~am~~ ^{was} well aware that he is
not a specialist and that he has not made
a study of the historical industries of this
Presidency, and it was never expected or
intended that he should become a pioneer

acher in the Madras Technical schools. Industrial education in this country is in its infancy, and the knowledge which Mr. Coombes was expected to gain by two or three years' study in London was expected to be of special service to the department. I still feel sanguine from what I know of him that he will pick up much that will prove useful to this Presidency. No doubt the drawing done by him is poor. But I think ^{that} the test was a hard one, and that the poor result was due more to nervousness when first brought face to face with one of Sir George Birdwood's reputation than to real inaptitude. If two years' stay be not sufficient I am prepared to recommend him for another year's leave, and I understand that he will be able with his brother's help to support himself during that period. The fact of his having taken the unusual step of going to England to improve himself shews that he is not quite so "flabby" as Sir George Birdwood thinks.

3. As Mr. Coombes applied for leave on half pay he was recommended for half pay during his absence. But as the allowance is quite insufficient, I would recommend that he be given two-thirds of his pay while on deputation under article 103 of the Civil Service Regulations. This would give him the equivalent of Rs 73-5-4 per mensem.

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

S. B. Srinivasan
Director of Public Instruction

E. & L.
1
20-40-11-01

C. 7. 3. 99
R. 9. 3. 99

Edl DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., No.	, dated	189
Again G.O., No.	, dated	189
Current No. 258	of 1899, dated 13 th Feb ^y	, from the D.P.I.
" "	" 189 , "	" "
" "	" 189 , "	" "

ORDER. No. 149 of 13.3.99
Min

Sir C. J. Lyall will be addressed.

NA
8.3.99

Letter No. 150 of 13.3.89
to Sir C. J. Lyall
Secretary Judicial & Public Dept
India Office, London

Sir,
In reply to your letter to the Hon. Mr. Gabriel Stokes d. 11th Nov. 1898 regarding the deputation of Mr. J. W. Coombes I am directed to forward a copy of a letter No. 1820 d. 13th Feb. 1899 from the D. P. I. Madras & to state that H. E. the Governor in Council agrees with the views expressed by the Director and Council, that while the period of Mr.

Comber's deputation to England
should be restricted to the
two years already sanctioned,
the recommendation of the Director
that Mr Comber should be
given two-thirds of his pay
while on deputation may be
accepted.

(From order)

at

2/8/99

6 3 99

When given for copying 11/11/99
When copied 11/11/99
When examined 11/11/99
When signed 11/11/99 } 189/.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. , DATED
189 .

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

APERS NOT FILED UP, BRING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.