

(1) Number of pages 8

(2) Date of repair 3. 7. 38

(3) Initials of the Referencer JP

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial. DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	885	Press
		Mis.
56-57.		
Dated	20-12-	1862.

56-57

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
20th December 1862.*

No. 56. Read the following letter from Captain J. MITCHELL, Officer in charge of the Government Central Museum; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 15th December 1862, No. 110.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Proceedings of Government, dated 13th December 1862, No. 871, to which I beg to submit the following reply:—

1. The Estimate was prepared in the same form as in the previous year and agreeably to a form furnished by the Accountant General for my guidance. The instructions of Government on this head will receive my careful attention in the future preparation of this document. The authority of Government for the increase to the servants' salaries did not reach me until two days after the latest date allowed for sending in the Estimate which I did not feel justified in detaining on that account.

2. With regard to the entry of Rupees 3,000 for the purchase of books, it appears that I have misapprehended the orders of Government which I thought referred only to such charges as were *entirely new*, I have now the honor earnestly to solicit Government to sanction the grant of this sum for 1863-64, trusting, that by careful expenditure of it and the sum granted for the current year, I shall not again find it necessary to appeal to the liberality of Government for any special grant on this account. Any thing like a complete Zoological Library unavoidably entails a considerable outlay of money. No one is so interested as myself in getting the most useful and necessary works at the lowest possible price, *i. e.*, making the money placed at my disposal for this purpose go as far as possible; and I have hitherto with the help of a kind friend in London (Dr. Neil) been very successful.

3. The object of a Museum collection I take to be at least twofold. First, to contain as complete a collection as possible of the natural productions of the country (in particular,) and other parts of the world, duly named and systematically arranged, as a means of encouraging the study of Natural History, and affording students the opportunity of identifying any specimens that may fall in their way, and

4. Secondly, to do its share in the advancement of science by making known any new and undescribed objects. There is much to be done in this way in the Presidency of Madras. Taking fish only as an example:—upwards of sixty years ago Dr. P. Russell described and figured about two hundred fish of the Coromandel Coast, but the later researches of Sir Emerson Tennant and others at Ceylon make it very probable that there are from six hundred to eight hundred species of fish in our Sea. It is obvious that I cannot distinguish what is known from what is unknown until the Library contains those works in which the former have been described. I may give an idea of the number of books required to form a complete Zoological Library by stating that Engelmann and Carus' "*Bibliotheca Historico Naturalis*" contains 2,936 pages of closely printed matter, 596 pages of which are filled with the Index alone;—and that distinguished Ichthyologist Dr. Gunther of the British Museum, in the only two volumes of his Catalogue of Acanthopterygious fishes of the British Museum which I have yet received, has given a Catalogue of the works quoted by him in these two volumes, and which amounts to no less than 406, I do not of course hope to get all these works but only such a selection of them as is necessary to arrange the fishes of India and the adjoining Seas, and I only mention these things to show that I am not asking for funds unnecessarily. I beg to add in conclusion that any money Government may be pleased to place at my disposal shall be spent with the greatest care. My desire is, so far as my abilities permit, to make the Madras Museum a credit to the Government by whose liberality it is supported.

No. 57. ORDER THEREON, 20th December 1862, No. 885.

Under the explanation submitted in the foregoing letter, the Governor in Council sanctions the estimated charge of Rupees (3,000) three thousand, for the purchase of standard works on Natural History, being entered in the Budget for 1863-64.

2. Captain Mitchell will submit a list of the books he desires to procure before ordering them.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. McMootry.

N^o 110.

Government G. Museum

Madras 15th December 1862.

From,

Captain J. Mitchell

Officer in charge of the Govt. G. Museum

To

A. J. Arbutnot Esquire

Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of Proceedings of Government
dated 13th December 1862 N^o 871 to which
I beg to submit the following reply.

1st The estimate was prepared
in the same form as in the previous year
and agreeably to a form furnished by the
Accountant General for my guidance.
The instructions of Government on this head
will receive my careful attention in the
future preparation of this document. The
authority of Government for the increase
to the servants salaries did not reach me
until two days after the latest date allowed
for

for sending in the estimate which I did not feel justified in detaining on that account.

2nd With regard to the entry of Rs. 3000

for the purchase of books it appears that I have misapprehended the orders of Government which I thought referred only to such charges as were entirely new. I have now the honor earnestly to solicit Government to sanction the grant of this sum for 1863/64, trusting, that by a careful expenditure of it and the sum granted for the current year, I shall not again find it necessary to appeal to the liberality of Government for any special grant on this account. Any thing like a complete Zoological Library unavoidably entails a considerable outlay of money - no one is so interested as myself in getting the most useful and necessary works at the lowest possible price, i.e. making the money placed at my disposal for this purpose go as far as possible. & I have hitherto with the help of

of a kind friend in London (Dr. Neill) been very successful.

3rd The object of a Museum collection I take to be at least two fold. First, to contain as complete a collection as possible of the natural productions of the Country (in particular,) and other parts of the world, duly named and systematically arranged, as a means of encouraging the study of Natural history, and affording Students the opportunity of identifying any specimens that may fall in their way, and

4th 2nd To do its share in the advancement of science by making known any new and undescribed objects. There is much to be done in this way in the Presidency of Madras. Taking fish only as an example: upwards of sixty years ago Dr. P. Russell described and figured about two hundred Fish of the Coromandel Coast, but the later researches of Sir Emerson Tennant and others at Ceylon make it very probable

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Government may be pleased to place
at my disposal shall be spent
with the greatest care. My desire is,
so far as my abilities permit, to make
the Madras Museum a credit to the
Government by whose liberality it is
supported.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant.
J. Munro, Captain
Officer in charge of the Govt.
Central Museum

No. 13th Dec 1871
Publ. 31st Dec 1871-1872

Final 1872 & 1873

Further P. 1082 of 1863-
The Officer in Charge
The Genl Centre B
Museum - 110.

St. 15th Dec 1871
p 16th Dec 1871

no 99th Dec 1871

Submit two Reply in

ref: 18 Dec 1871

of 13th Dec 1871

contain observations on

the proposed estimate of

the expenditure

5857

submitted before money spent

Order Museum 1885 of 20 Dec 1872

Submitted in the foregoing letter,
the Governor in Council directed
the estimated charge of Rs 1000 (1000)
three thousand for the purchase of
standard works on Natural History

to be directed to the account of
the Museum in the Budget for 1883-84.

of the Museum will not will
submit a bill of the work of
in the Museum & pursue after
ordinary terms.

to the Museum & to the General Department
of the Museum in charge of the
Genl Centre B. Museum - 110. 23 Dec 1871

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