M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 28

(2) Date of repair 20-10-37

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 418 Press / Mis.

7-8

Dated 12-10- 1870.

7-8 20/21

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, 12*th October* 1870.

No. 7. Read the following letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Simla, 12th September 1870, No. 3360:—

Letter from Mint Master, Calcutta, No. 132, dated 9th May 1870.
Letter to do. do. No. 667, dated 26th May 1870.
Letter from do. do. No. 463, dated 22nd August 1870, and enclosures.

With reference to this Department's letter, No. 3296, dated 18th December 1869, authorizing the destruction of the dies of the Madras Mint, I am directed to forward a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin, and to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, you will be good enough to state why the dies were sent to Calcutta.

2. I am to observe that the proceedings of the Assay Master at Madras appear to have been very careless. If the dies were sent at all, they should have been despatched with the utmost precautions, such as are used in despatching bullion.

From the Mint Master, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Calcutta, 9th May 1870, No. 132.

On the 23rd ultimo, the Acting Assay Master in charge of the Bullion Depôt, Madras, shipped to my address, per Steam Ship *Cashmere*, six boxes containing the gold and silver coinage dies of the late Madras Mint, under orders from the Madras Government.

2. The cases, on arrival of the vessel, were landed in the Custom House, from where they were received in good condition, except one case which was damaged, and for which a receipt was accordingly given.

3. On receipt into the Mint, it was deemed necessary to open the cases, and, on examination, three dies, namely, two bottom and one top die of the gold coinage, were found to be missing.

4. The cases in which the dies were packed were made of the safest description of yellow pine wood, dovetailed and nailed with ordinary taper nails, and with two bands of one inch hoop-iron round them; and the packing consisted of a layer of dies and pine planks alternately. The result was that the planks broke within, and the dies, being mixed up, were chipped and otherwise damaged.

5. It appears that care had not been exercised in regard to these dies. The cases in which they should have been sent ought to have been made of some tough wood, dovetailed and screwed and sealed, like ordinary bullion boxes, with a tin lining inside, and the interstices should have been filled up with saw-dust, so that any usage would not damage the contents, and any attempt at tampering with the cases be defeated.

6. I have telegraphed to the Assay Master, Madras, reporting the loss, and have asked the Commissioner of Police to inquire about the loss.

7. In my letter, No. 804, dated 4th December 1869, I intimated that these dies would not be of any use. It is as I expected: the dies cannot be used, and the whole expense and risk of sending the dies to Calcutta has been useless.

From the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Mint Master, Calcutta, dated Simla, 26th May 1870, No. 667.

With reference to your letter, No. 132, dated 9th May 1870, I am directed to request that you will be good enough to report the result of your inquiry about the missing dies, and state especially whether they can be used by coiners.

2. You will be good enough, also, to report specifically whether the damaged box was so injured that the dies could have slipped out, and whether you have made any claim upon the vessel or not,

From the Mint Master, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Calcutta, 22nd August 1870, No. 463.

In reply to your letter, No. 607, dated 26th May 1870, and in continuation of my letter, No. 132, of 9th May, I have the honour to forward copies of my letter, No. 242, dated 4th June 1870, to the Acting Assay Master, Madras, and of his reply to the same.

2. The case of the transmission of the dies from Madras to Calcutta may be considered as follows:—

1*st*.—The advisability of sending the dies from Madras to Calcutta.
2*nd*.—The way in which the dies were packed.
3*rd*.—The method of despatch.
4*th*.—The receipt of the dies in Calcutta.

1*st*.—The question of the missing dies.

3. The dies ought never to have been sent.

In my letter, No. 804, of 4th December 1869, I wrote—"It is not probable that the Madras "dies will suit the machinery of this Mint; the dies may, therefore, be destroyed."

I do not know if this letter was sent to the Madras Mint, but, whether it was or not, what I wrote must have been well known to the Mint Officers at Madras, and advice should have been given to that Government not to send the dies.

4. This is the case for new dies, but, in letter, No. 41, from the Acting Assay Master, it is shown that not only were new dies sent, but that old dies of no possible use were also sent. It must have been well known that such dies were of no value beyond that of old steel, and that, therefore, there was no reason whatever for sending them at great risk and expense.

2*nd*.—The packing of the dies.

5. The total weight of the dies was between 1800 and 1900lbs., giving for each box 310lbs. Now these dies were of very variable sizes, and were placed in layers with boards between each layer, with no soft packing whatever, in boxes of soft wood nailed down.

6. If all the dies had been mathematically correct, it would even then have been impossible to have packed them tight between boards of wood, but as the dies were very uneven, and of several sizes, they were simply loose in layers in the boxes, and 310 of hard pieces of brittle steel with sharp edges rubbing against one another, and not protected from one another in any way whatever, in boxes of soft deal only nailed down, could only ensure one result, namely, the destruction of the contents of the boxes and the boxes themselves. I may mention that, a few days ago, I opened a small box of two matrices from England. These were packed in wax and cotton waste in a tin-lined strong box; this box was sealed and placed in soft packing inside another box, and these matrices arrived quite safe. The Madras Mint Officers, when they determined to send the dies, should have packed them in soft packing, in tin-lined strong wood boxes secured and sealed. The extra expense would have been small. In my opinion great neglect and carelessness was shown in the way the boxes were packed.

3*rd*.—Method of despatch.

7. The correspondence shows that these boxes, unsealed, were delivered over to the Master Attendant, in whose office they remained from the 6th to the 13th April. This I cannot consider to be a proper method for despatching dies, and the Bill of Lading was not posted in Madras till two days after the steamer with the dies on board left. This fact should, on the slightest consideration, have shown that the consignee in Calcutta would not be able to obtain delivery of the boxes on the arrival of the vessel.

8. The letter of advice, annexed in original, stated that the boxes would leave on the 23rd April; thus, this office did not expect the boxes, and (as the Bill of Lading did not arrive till the next steamer following the steamer with the boxes) was not aware of their arrival. Hence, the steamer authority landed the boxes at the Bonded Ware-House.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
12th October 1870.

9. The dies in the broken box (the box was broken in the Bonded Ware-House while being received by the Mint) were correct; the lost dies were missing from a box that was (as far as the construction of the box could ensure) in good order. No claim could, therefore, be made on the vessel.

10. I am of opinion that the dies were never put into the box at Madras, because three were missing—a number that would hardly have been stolen by any one purposely; for any one stealing dies would have certainly taken an even number, an odd one being comparatively useless.

11. The case of theft is in the hands of the Police in Calcutta, who have reported that they can find no trace of the dies. I do not know what steps the Acting Assay Master at Madras has taken, but I must submit to Government that his letter shows he does not understand how such articles as dies should be packed; indeed, he could hardly be expected to have such knowledge as he can have no experience. His Head Assistant, however, who was Manager of the Mint, should be perfectly competent, and must be mainly to blame in the matter, if the Acting Assay Master acted on his advice.

From the Mint Master, Calcutta, to the Bullion Depôt Commissioner of Paper Currency, Madras, dated Calcutta, 4th June 1870, No. 242.

On the 7th of May I sent you a telegram, reporting to you that three mohur dies were missing from those shipped by you to this Mint. I shall feel obliged by your informing me whether you have made any inquiries regarding them.

2. I find that the six boxes containing the dies were sent to some Agent, on or before the 6th April, expecting that they would be despatched on to Calcutta on the 23rd; that the boxes were of a soft description of yellow pine wood, dovetailed and nailed with ordinary taper nails, and with two bands of one inch hoop-iron round them, which would admit of the boxes being opened and closed by skilful men without discovery; that the Agent sent the boxes, per *Cashmere*, on the 9th April; that the Bill of Lading bears the date of 11th April, or two days after the boxes had been sent off from Madras in the steamer *Cashmere* on the 9th; that the Bill of Lading did not then arrive in Calcutta till long after the boxes, and hence this office, having no knowledge of the arrival of the dies, could not send for them; and that the boxes were, therefore, landed into the Bonded Ware-House, from where they were received in good condition, except one box, which was damaged. On receipt into the Mint, the boxes were then examined, and three dies, namely, two bottom and one top of the gold coinage, were found to be missing. The box containing the gold coinage dies was, however, in good condition. The broken box contained silver coinage dies, which were all found correct, but chipped and otherwise damaged.

3. I have, therefore, to solicit the favour of your making careful inquiries as to how this was, and of your informing me of full particulars, including the names of the Agents to whom the boxes were made over on the 6th April, by whom the Bill of Lading was posted, and on what date.

4. If the number of mohur dies given in your letter, dated 6th April, is correct, namely, top 239, bottom 154, then there has been a theft of two bottom and one top die since they left the Madras Mint in the condition I have mentioned.

From the Acting Assay Master in charge of the Bullion Depôt, Madras, to the Mint Master, Calcutta, dated Madras, 14th June 1870, No. 41.

In compliance with the instructions conveyed in your letter, No. 242, of the 4th instant, I have the honour to state that a searching inquiry has been made by me in this office regarding the top and two bottom mohur dies you report as missing from the consignment of six boxes of Madras coinage dies that I forwarded, under the orders of the Local Government, to the Calcutta Mint on 6th April last.

2. I can certify that, on the 4th of April, the dies were all carefully counted in my presence and found to correspond with the Mint Register as follows:—

Dies.	Gold Mohurs.	Silver.			Double Anna.
		Whole Rupees.	Half Rupees.	Quarter Rupees.	
Tops	239	365	99	395	134
Bottoms...	154	496	64	298	153
Total...	393	861	163	693	287

Some of the dies, it is possible, may have been old and chipped; the bulk, however, were in good and serviceable condition. After this inventory, the dies were made over for packing to Mr. Peterson, the late Manager of the Madras Mint, who is still employed in the Bullion Depôt. His voucher for the correct execution of this work is appended, and, Mr. Peterson being an old and faithful Mint servant, I see no reason to doubt its accuracy.

3. As regards the boxes, they were made expressly for this purpose, their measurement being about two feet square and one foot deep. Each box contained three layers of dies, separated by two wooden partitions. The material used was stout deal-wood, secured externally by two bands of one inch hoop-iron. Harder wood was not employed, as it would have made the boxes very expensive, and, for the short voyage to Calcutta, was not deemed necessary.

4. The six boxes, being carefully packed and secured as above noted, were sent to the Master Attendant's Office here, with the usual tonnage requisition for shipment to Calcutta, on the 6th of April last, and on the same date I forwarded you a letter, No. 3, advising their despatch by "steamer leaving Madras about 13th instant." If the 13th, the probable date of despatch, appears as 23rd in my letter, No. 3, of 6th April, to your address, it is a clerical error which escaped my notice at the time I signed it.

5. On inquiry, I find that the boxes were shipped to Calcutta per steamer *Cashmere*, which left Madras on the 11th April; that the Bill of Lading was received at my office here on the 13th April, and forwarded to your address at Calcutta the same day.

6. With the exception of a possible clerical error in my letter of advice, No. 3, of 6th April, as to the probable date of despatch, I do not find any shortcoming attaching to my office in respect either to the packing or despatch of these boxes of dies.

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, 12th October 1870, No. 418.

Ordered that the foregoing letter be communicated to the Assay Master, Madras.

2. The following letter will be despatched to the Government of India:—

(Here enter 12th October 1870, No. 419.)

(True Extract.)

To the Assay Master. *Chief Secretary.*

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE ASSAY MASTER.

Dated October, 12th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 12th October 1870, No. 418.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 7—9.

Communicating letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, inquiring why the dies of the Madras Mint were sent to Calcutta, and not destroyed as directed, and bringing to notice the careless manner in which the dies were packed at Madras.

7.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 419.

FROM

THE HON. R. S. ELLIS, C.B.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 12th ultimo, No. 3360, I am directed to refer you to the letter from the Acting Chief Secretary, dated the 24th February last, No. 90, and the Proceedings of this Government, No. 89, therein referred to, from which it will be seen that, His Excellency the Governor in Council having been of opinion that the gold and silver coinage dies at the Madras Mint, instead of being destroyed, might be sent to Calcutta, where they might be of some value as specimens, if a collection was kept there, the Acting Assay Master was directed to pack up the dies and send them by the first opportunity to the Mint Master at Calcutta.

2. It is to be regretted that the peculiar precautions necessary in packing these dies were omitted by the Acting Assay Master.

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

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
12th October 1870.

Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

1870.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

From

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George,

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,

Financial Department.

Dated 12th October 1870.

Read.

No. 419.

Enclosure.

Affording explanation as to why the gold and silver coinage dies of the Madras Mint were sent to Calcutta and not destroyed.

No. 132

9.

Her Majesty's Mint, Calcutta

Dated 9th May 1870

From

Lieutenant Colonel A. Hyde, R. E.

Mint Master.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India Financial Department

Sir,

On the 23rd ultimo the acting Agency Assistant in charge of the Bullion ~~Department~~ Depôt Madras shipped to my address on Steam Ship "Cashmere," six boxes containing the gold and Silver coinage dies of the late Madras Mint, under orders from the Madras government.

2nd The cases on arrival of the vessel were landed in the Custom House, from where they were received in good condition, except one case, which was damaged and for which a receipt was accordingly given.

3rd On receipt into the Mint, it was deemed necessary to open the cases and on examination

3 dies viz. 2 bottom and 1 top die of the gold coinage were found to be defective. —

4th The cases in which the dies were packed were made of the lowest description of yellow pine wood, dovetailed and sealed with ordinary taper seals and with two bands of 1 inch hoop iron round them, and the packing consisted of a layer of dies and pine planks alternately. The result was that the planks broke within and the dies being dropped up were chipped and otherwise damaged. —

5th It appears that care had not been exercised in regard to these dies. The cases in which they should have been sent ought to have been made of some tough wood dovetailed and screwed and sealed like ordinary bullion boxes with a tin lining inside and the interstices should have been filled up with sawdust so that any usage would not damage the contents and any attempt at tampering with the

the cases be detected. — 3 11.

6th I have telegraphed to the Agency Treasurer Madras reporting the loss and have asked the Commissioner of Police to enquire about the boys. —

7th In my letter No 804 dated 4th December 1869. I intimated that these dies would not be of any use. It is as I expected. the dies cannot be used and the whole expense and risk of sending the dies to Calcutta has been useless. —

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
(Signed) S. Hyde
Mint Master

99

No 867

4 13

To

The Director Master
Calcutta

Simla
Financial Department
The 25th May 1870.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 132 dated 9th May 1870, I am directed to request that you will be good enough to report the result of your enquiry about the diseasing dies used stale especially whether they can be used by Coiners.

2 You will be good enough also to report specifically whether the damaged bar has so impressed that the dies could have slipped out, and whether you have made any claim upon the vessel or not.

I have &c
Sd G.H.M. Batten
Under Secy: to the Govt of India

105

No 403 5 15

Her Majesty's Mint Calcutta.
Dated 22nd August 1870

Recd

Lieutenant Colonel H. Hyde, R. E.
Mint Master

To,

The Secretary to the Government
of India Financial Department

Sir,

In reply to your letter No.
807 dated 20th May 1870, and in
continuation of my letter No.
132 of 9th May, I have the honor
to forward Copies of my letter
No. 242 dated 4th June 1870 to the
acting Agency Assayer Madras.
and of his reply to the same. —
2nd The case of the transmission
of the dies from Madras to Calcutta
may be considered as follows. —

1. The advisability of send-
ing the dies from Madras
to Calcutta. —
2nd The way in which
the dies were packed. —
3rd The method of despatch
4th The receipt of the dies
in Calcutta. —

159

1st The question of the missing dies

3rd The dies ought never to have been sent. —

In my letter No 804 of 4th December 1869, I wrote. "It is not "probable that the Madras dies will "suit the machinery of this "Mint — the dies may therefore "fore be destroyed". —

I do not know if this letter was sent to the Madras Mint, but whether it was or no that I wrote must have been well known to the Mint officers at Madras, and advice should have been given to that Government Mint not to send the dies. —

4th This is the case for send dies, but in letter No 41 from the Acting Assay Master, it is shown that not only were send dies sent, but that old dies of no possible use were also sent. It must have been well known that such dies were of no value beyond that of old steel and that therefore there was no reason whatever for sending them at great risk and expense. —

2nd

2nd The packing of the dies. 17.

5th The total weight of the dies was between 1800 and 1900 lbs giving for each box 300 lbs. —

Now these dies were of very variable sizes, and were placed in layers with boards between each layer with no soft packing whatever in boxes of soft wood nailed down. —

6th If all the dies had been mathematically correct, it would even then have been impossible to have packed them tight between boards of wood, but as the dies were very uneven, and of several sizes they were simply loose in layers in the boxes and 310 of hard pieces of brittle steel with sharp edges rubbing against one another and not protected from one another in any way whatever, in boxes of soft deal only nailed down could only ensure one result, namely the destruction of the contents of the boxes and the boxes themselves. —

I may mention that a few days ago, I opened a small box of two dies from England. These were packed in wool and cotton waste

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waste in a tin lined strong bag; this bag was sealed and placed in soft packing inside another bag, and these matrices arrived quite safe. The Madras Mint officers when they determined to send the dies, should have packed them in soft packing in tin lined strong wood boxes secured and sealed. The extra expense would have been small, in my opinion great neglect and carelessness was shewn in the way the boxes were packed.—

3rd Method of despatch.—

7th The correspondence shews that these bags unsealed, were delivered over to the Master Attendant in whose office they remained from the 5th to the 13th April. This I cannot consider to be a proper method for despatching dies and the bill of lading has not posted in Madras till two days after the Steamer with the dies on board left. This fact should, on the slightest consideration, have shewn that the consignee in

in Calcutta would not be able to obtain delivery of the boxes on the arrival of the vessel.—

8th The letter of advice annexed in original stated that the boxes would leave on the 23rd April. Thus this office did not expect the boxes and (as the bill of lading did not arrive till the Sept Steamer following Steamer with the boxes) was not aware of their arrival, hence the Steamer authority landed the boxes at the Bonded Ware House.—

9th The dies in the broken bag (the bag was taken in the Bonded Ware House while being received by the Mint) were correct; the lost dies were missing from a bag that was (as far as the construction of the bag could ensure) in good order, no claim could therefore be made on the vessel.—

10th Seen of opinion that the dies were never put into the bag at Madras, because three were missing a number that would hardly have been stolen

by

by any one purposely for anyone steal-ing dies would have certainly taken an even number, an odd one being comparatively useless.—

11th The case of theft is in the hands of the Police in Calcutta, who have reported that they can find no trace of the dies. I do not know what steps the acting Agency Master at Madras has taken, but I must submit to Government that his letter shews he does not understand how such articles as dies, should be packed, indeed he could hardly be expected to have such knowledge as he can have no experience, his head assistant however, who has been manager of Mint, should be perfectly competent and must be answerable to blame in the matter, if the acting Agency Master acted on his advice.—

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

(Signed) H. Hyde

Deputy Master

157

8

21.

No 242.

Her Majesty's Mint. Calcutta

Dated 4th June 1870

From

Lieutenant Colonel H. Hyde, R. E.-

Deputy Master.

To

Deputy

Burbon ~~Deputy Assistant~~

Commissioner of Paper Currency

Madras.

Sir,

On the 7th of May, I sent you a telegram reporting to you that 3 Medium dies were missing from those shipped by you to this Mint. I shall feel obliged by your informing me whether you have made any enquiries regarding them.—

2nd I find that the zinc boxes containing the dies were sent to some Agent on or before the 1st April, expecting that they would be despatched on to Calcutta on the 23rd. That the boxes were of a soft description of yellow pine wood dovetailed and nailed with ordinary paper nails, and with two bands

of

of 1 inch hoop iron round them which would admit of the bags being opened and closed by skilful men without discovery that the Agent sent the bags per "Cashmere" on the 9th April. that the Bill of Lading bears the date of 11th April or two days after the bags had been sent off from Madras in the Steamer "Cashmere" on the 9th; that the Bill of Lading did not then arrive in Calcutta till long after the bags and hence this office having no knowledge of the arrival of the dies could not send for them and that the bags were therefore landed into the Bonded Ware House from where they were received in good condition except one bag which was damaged.- On receipt into the Mint the bags were then examined and 3 dies big 2 bottom and 1 top of the gold Coinage were found to be missing. The bag containing the gold coinage dies was however in good condition the broken

bag.

contained Silver Coinage Dies which were all found correct & un chipped and otherwise damaged.—

3rd I have therefore to solicit the favor of your making careful enquiries as to how this was and of your informing me of full particulars including the names of the Agents to whom the bags were made over on the 9th April by whom the Bill of Lading was posted and on what date.—

4th By the number of Mohurs &c given in your letter dated 6th April is correct & viz Top 239 Bottom 154, there there has been a theft of 2 Bottom and 1 Top die since they left the Madras Mint in the condition I have mentioned.—

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

Signed A. Hyde

Assist Master

No 41

Her Majestys Bullion Depôt

Madras 25th

14th June 1870

Sir,

I the Acting Assay Master
In charge of Bullion Depôt
Madras

To,

The Asst Master
Calcutta

Sir,

In compliance with the instructions conveyed in your letter No 242 of the 4th instant, I have the honor to state that a searching enquiry has been made by me in this office regarding the two packages of Madras coinage dies that I forwarded under the orders of the Local Government to the Calcutta Mint on 5th April last.

2. I can certify that on the 4th of April the dies were all carefully counted in my presence and passed to corresponded with the Asst Register as

as follows.

Dies	Gold Mohurs	Silver Whole Rupees	Silver Half Rupees	Silver Quarter Rupees	Double anna
Tops	239	365	99	395	134
Bottoms	154	496	64	298	152
Total	393	861	163	693	287

Some of the dies it is possible may have been old and chipped the bulk however were in good and serviceable condition. After this inventory the dies were made over for packing to Dr. Peterson the late Manager of the Madras Mint who is still employed in the Bullion Dept. His voucher for the correct execution of this work is appended and Dr. Peterson being an old and faithful Mint Servant I see no reason to doubt its accuracy.—

3. As regards the boxes they were made expressly for this purpose, their measurement being about two feet square and one foot deep. Each box contained three layers of dies separated by two wooden partitions. The material used was stout deal wood secured externally by two bands

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bands of 1 inch hoop iron. Sandal wood was not employed as it would have made the boxes very expensive and for the short voyage to Calcutta was not deemed necessary.—

4. The six boxes being carefully packed and secured as above stated were sent to the Master Attendants office here, with the usual Tonnage requisition for shipment to Calcutta on the 5th of April last and on the same date I forwarded you a letter No. 3 advising their despatch by "Steamer leaving Madras about 13th instant." If the 13th the probable date of despatch appears as 23rd in my letter No. 3 of 5th April to your address, it is a clerical error which escaped my notice at the time I signed it.—

5. On enquiry I find that the boxes were shipped to Calcutta per Steamer "Cashmere" which left Madras on the 11th April; that the Bill of Lading was received at my office here on the

on the 13th April and forwarded to your address at Calcutta the same day.—

5. With the exception of a possible clerical error in any letter of advice Dst. 3 of 5th April as to the probable date of despatch, I do not find any short coming attaching to any office in respect either to the packing or despatch of these cases of dies.—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
(Signed) P. S. Ballard
Acting Assay Master
in Charge of Bullion Depôt

(True Copies)
(Signed) H. Hyde
Asst Master

(True Copies)
W. B. Mansfield
Asst Secy: to the Govt of India

Fwd 10 Oct 1870

100

8 Oct 1219

No 3360

To
The Chief Secretary to the Government
of Fort St. George.

Financial Depart Sir,

With reference to this Department's letter No 3296 dated 18th December 1869, authorizing the destruction of the Dies of the Madras Mint, I am directed to forward a copy of the Correspondence noted in the margin, and to request that with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, you will be good enough to state why the dies were sent to Calcutta.

Letter from Mint Master Calcutta, No 132 dd 9th May 1870
Do to Do No 667 dated 26th May 1870
Do from Do No 463 dd 22d August 1870 and enclosures.

2 I am to observe that the Proceedings of the Assay Master at Madras appear to have been very careless. If the dies were sent at all they should have been despatched with the utmost precautions, such as are used in despatching Bullion.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant

Simla
The 12 September 1870

Asst Secy to the Govt of India

Proc: 25th Jany/70 Nos 68-69
" 24th Feby " " 21-23

Financial 1870 Dept

From

The Offg. Secretary to the
Govt of India. Fin. Dept.

No 3360

dated 12
recd 21 Septr

Encls. Nil

No 276/29

Forwards correspondence
between the Mint-Master
at Calcutta & Govt, and
asks why the Dies of the
Madras Mint have been
sent to Calcutta and not
destroyed as directed

With an Order

Details on the
Progress order

12

12 Octr 1870 No 418.

Ordered that the foregoing letter be
communicated to the Assay Master
Madras.

The following letter will be
despatched to the Govt. of India.

PM

To the Assay Master

5/10
1871

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

Fin.l.

To

The Assay Master

Dated 24. 12.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 12 Oct. 1870, No 416.

Nos. 7. 9.

Comm.g. letter from the Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India requiring as to why the Dies of the Madras Mint have been sent to Calcutta and not destroyed as directed.

dest 17/10

13 33

Financial Depart.

No. 419.

To the Secretary to the

Government of India

Financial Depart.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 12. Octr. No. 3360, I am directed to refer you to the letter from the Acting Chief Secretary of the 24. February last, No. 90, and the Proceedings of this Government, No. 89, therein referred to from which it will be seen that His Excellency the Governor in Council having been of opinion that the Gold and Silver coinage Dies at the Madras Mint, instead of being destroyed might be sent to Calcutta, where they might be of some value as specimens, if a collection

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was kept here, the
Acting Assay Master
was directed to pack
up the dies and send
them by the first oppor-
tunity to the Mint
Master at Calcutta.

2. Adverting to
paragraph 2 of your
letter, it appears from
the letter from the Actg.
Assay Master, Dr. Bellew
to the Mint Master,
Calcutta, of the 14th
June last, No. 41, that
he took such precau-
tions, as suggested
themselves to him, in
the packing and
dispatch of the dies in
question.

It is to be regretted that
2. the peculiar precautions
necessary in packing these dies
were omitted by the Acting
Assay Master. R.C.

Fort St. George
12th October 1870.

20/.

1870.

Financial DEPARTMENT

From

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George,

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Financial Department.

Dated Oct. 12. 1870.

Read.

No. 419
Enclosure.

Nos. 7-9.

Affording explanation as to why the gold and silver Coinage dies of the Madras Mint were sent to Calcutta and not destroyed.