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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Information DEPARTMENT.

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Dated

18-11-52

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1E

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th July 1864.*

No. 477. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, in the Public
Department :—

Stating that the completion of the Plan and Estimate for a }
building for the projected Public Library at Madras, } (Here enter 20th July 1864, No. 831.)
should, for the reasons given, be postponed.

No. 478. ORDER THEREON, 27th July 1864, No. 2,147.
Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, with plan.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

3E

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
20th July 1864.*

No. 124. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel C. V. WILKIE-SON, R. E., for Superintending Engineer, 4th Division; to Colonel G. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 23rd July 1864, No. 1150.

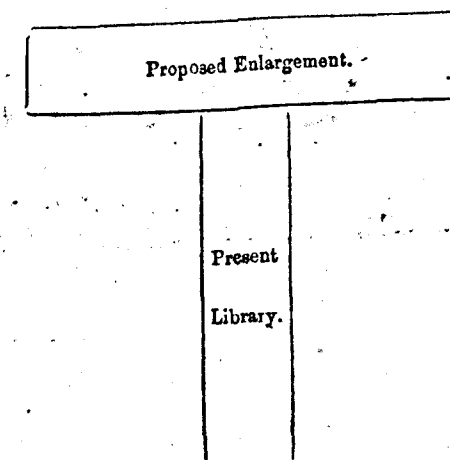
With reference to the Proceedings of Government, No. 809, dated 17th March 1864, I have the honor to submit for

- Enclosures.
1 Letter No. 51, dated 7th May 1864, from Superintendent, Central Museum.
1 Do. No. 792, dated 27th April 1864, from Director of Public Instruction.
1 Do. No. 878, dated 14th April 1864, with rough plan from Executive Engineer, Presidency.

orders letters from the Executive Engineer, Presidency; the Director of Public Instruction, and the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum, con-

taining their views on the subject of the description of building which should be erected for the proposed Public Library.

2. Captain Beckley suggests that the design shall be of an octagon form, as shown in the accompanying plan; but the Director of Public Instruction is of opinion that, besides not being suited to this country, such a design would not harmonize



with the Museum, and that if a permanent Library is to be preferable to add wings to that building, one wing to form the Reading-room and Library, and the other to be made use of for delivering Lectures on those branches of Science which the various collections in the Museum would seem to call for. If, however, the accommodation to be provided for the Library is to be temporary only, he considers that an arrangement suggested by Colonel Boileau, of enlarging the present Reading-room of the Museum, may be carried out.

3. On the other hand the Superintendent of the Museum explains that for many reasons the Library should be detached from the Museum, and he believes that an octagonal building is the most suited for the purpose, and the best which can be designed for being hereafter added to without altering the original form.

4. His Excellency the Governor also appears to be of opinion that the Library should be a separate building; and under

See paragraph 6, Captain Mitchell's letter, No. 51, dated 7th May 1864.

these circumstances, I beg that I may be furnished with instructions as to whether

the octagonal form recommended by Captain Mitchell is to be adopted in order that the necessary plans may be prepared.

From Captain J. MITCHELL, Superintendent Government Central Museum; to Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated Madras, 7th May 1864, No. 51.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 87 of the 4th instant, with its accompaniments, to which after a careful consideration of the subject I beg to reply.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
20th July 1864.*

1st.—That I believe it to be the intention of Government to establish a Public Library of reference similar to that of the British Museum, which, notwithstanding that it must be upon a more limited scale, shall nevertheless be an honor to the Government and confer a great benefit on the public at large.

2nd.—Taking this view of the subject, I consider the size of the building should be fixed with reference to future probable requirements rather than in accordance with present known wants, and also that it should be of such a form as will admit of future additions being made without disfiguring the building in an architectural point of view.

3rd.—The octagonal ground plan sketched by Captain Beckley affords about 2568 square feet for a Reading-room, and accommodation for 24 double book cases nine feet wide (after leaving six inches clear of the wall at each side). This is equivalent to 432 running feet of wall surface for book cases: $24 \times 2 \times 9 = 432$.

4th.—Not being an architect it is with some diffidence that I venture to suggest an alteration in his plan, which will give about half as much more wall surface for books and reduce the amount of light, which with three windows on each face of the octagon will probably be much in excess of what is necessary, particularly if, as I presume will be the case, means are adopted to give a subdued light from above. My suggestion is this:—By the plan the outer faces of the octagon measure about $32\frac{1}{2}$ feet internally, but of this 15 feet, or with the necessary slope to the openings at least 18 feet, is lost in doors or windows. In place of three windows of five feet, I would put only one window of about seven feet, making it, as lofty as the walls will permit and descending much nearer than usual towards the floor. If opposite to such a window, or door, an arched opening of 10 feet, also as lofty as circumstances permit, be made in the inner wall, I believe we should obtain as much light and air as would be desirable, and there would be room against the inner and outer walls for about 648 running feet of book cases, or, as I have already said, about half as much more than is afforded by the present plan.

5th.—Mr. Powell considers that an octagonal building would be very hot and therefore be unsuitable to the climate. I have looked very carefully at this objection before venturing to differ from such an authority; but the conclusion I have come to is that if the question were asked: In what way should a building be erected so that the heat in only one room should be a minimum? The reply would be, let the centre room be a polygon approaching as nearly as convenient to a circle and put a gallery or, as we term it here, an enclosed verandah all round it. An arrangement of this kind keeps the inner walls cool, and from whatever point the wind blows it will strike within a few degrees of the perpendicular on some face of the building and of course pass through the centre of the inner room. There will be punkahs in the room, and if still greater comfort was considered desirable the expense of one tattie would be very small.

6th.—It was never intended that the new Library should form a part of the Museum. For the sake of quietness it must be detached, and I have already proposed to His Excellency the Governor, who was pleased to approve thereof, that it should be erected in front of the Museum. It need have but two doors, one to face the Pantheon road, the other to communicate by a covered passage with the Porte-cochere of the Museum. His Excellency the Governor in Council has on a previous occasion objected to building on the flanks of the Museum, and I consider it of the greatest importance that this ground should be preserved to meet the demand for additional space which will surely be made hereafter. One of the greatest difficulties the authorities of the British Museum have had to contend with has been caused by neglecting to look forward to future probable (I might say certain) demands for space.

7th.—An octagonal building seems to offer peculiar facilities for receiving additions without altering its form, for additional space may not only be obtained by building an upper story, but an additional, and of course much larger, gallery might be built outside the original one. Bearing this in mind, it is a question whether the central room should not be made somewhat smaller than the present plan provides for.

8th.—It may be said that a building of this form will not harmonize with the principal structure. Of this I do not presume to judge, but I may say that convenience is the first point

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
20th July 1864.*

to be looked to, and no form of ground plan occurs to me on which so convenient a building can be erected, which shall be at the same time complete in plan when first erected which may be so conveniently added to without destroying its original form.

The sketch plan received with your letter is herewith returned.

From E. B. POWELL, Esq., Director of Public Instruction; to Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated 27th April 1864, No. 792.

In acknowledging receipt of your letter, No. 6393 of the 20th instant, I have the honor to state that I do not feel quite certain as to what is proposed to be done at the present moment in connexion with the erection of a building for a Public Library at Madras.

2. If the Library is intended to include all descriptions of work and not merely such as are calculated to throw light on the contents of the Museum, it must eventually be a very extensive one; and that such is the intention, I gather from the character of the books which are to form the nucleus of the Library.

3. In these circumstances, I feel in doubt whether the structure for the accommodation of books, now about to be created, is intended to be the permanent building for the reception of the Library, or merely a temporary receptacle while that Library is in course of slow formation. I use the word slow, as I presume the collection which is to constitute the nucleus is comparatively small, and the annual grant is so limited that, in all probability, many years will have to elapse before the Library will be at all extensive.

4. If the building is to be the permanent home of the books, its plan should be such as to allow of handsome additions being made from time to time, supposing, as I imagine, that it is not proposed to erect the whole structure at once. But in this case I doubt strongly if the addition of rooms to the Museum will answer the purpose. I am afraid such a procedure would result in a heavy, if not an inconvenient structure. I think that the better course would be to build a separate edifice, say at the side of the Museum, with a communication between the two buildings.

5. On the supposition that a permanent structure is contemplated, I may remark that I do not think Captain Beckley's plan would answer for the Library. It would not, in my opinion, harmonize with the Museum; and further, being after the fashion of the Reading-room in the British Museum, it is more calculated to secure heat than coolness. Generally I conceive the conditions under which the British Museum Reading-room was built are the opposite of those which should be followed in this country.

6. It may be considered that the architectural effect of the Museum would be injured by throwing out a sort of wing on one side; this objection would be met by placing a corresponding structure on the other side, containing rooms suitable for the delivery of lectures and other purposes. It is, I think, beyond doubt that there should be rooms adjoining the Museum for the delivery of lectures on those branches of Science which the various collections would serve to illustrate.

7. If the accommodation about to be provided is intended to be temporary only, and to be re-placed at some future time when the collection of books has increased, I see no objection to the course proposed by you in paragraph 2 of your letter.

8. I return the plan which accompanied your communication.

From Captain J. BECKLEY, R. E., Acting Executive Engineer, Presidency; to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated Madras, 14th April 1864, No. 878.

With reference to your Memorandum, No. 5817 of 22nd March 1864, I have the honor to request that I may receive some information as to the number of volumes the proposed Library is intended to contain, and I should also be obliged by being instructed as to the style of building that will most probably meet with the approval of Government.

2. I have already consulted with Captain Mitchell, and we consider that in the first place the Library should be built considerably larger than is needed to contain all the volumes at the present disposal of the Madras Government, and that the certainty of considerable extensions being required hereafter must be considered.

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20th July 1864.*

3. I enclose a rough plan of a building that appears to me tolerably well adapted for an Indian Library; it consists of two octagons, the inner one forming the Reading-room, and the space intervening between the inner and outer walls occupied by the book-shelves.

Referred to the Public Department, with reference to the orders in that Department, No. 288, dated 8th March 1864.

CHEPAUK, 24th June 1864.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

No. 125.

ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1864, No. 831.

The Governor in Council deems it advisable that the completion of the plan and estimate referred to in the foregoing letter be postponed, pending the final decision of the Government of India on the application which has been made for an annual grant of Rupees 2000 to the projected Public Library.

2. He apprehends, however, that the octagonal form will hardly admit of sufficient light reaching the interior of the building.

(True Extract.)

C. A. Orr

Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department, with a rough Plan.
„ Superintendent, Government Central Museum.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

2147
Communicated to the
Asst. Engineer 4th Division.

Chepaunk
27th July 1864

To the Asst. Engineer 4th Division.
with Plan - S
X²⁸⁷

28th July

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Pro. of Govt for July
No 8279

Pro. of Govt in the
Public Depart

Dated 20th July
Received 26th

81 No 831

2147-24th July 1864-

It being that the
completion of the plan and
retinali for a building
for the projected Public
Library at Chaddas, shall
for the reasons given, be
postponed

With an order.

N. 477.478.