

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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4. The present Exhibition has differed from all its predecessors in the fact that it was decided from the first that especial prominence should be given to the due representation of Indian arts and art-industries, and as Government had allotted liberal funds for the purpose, it was found that the required exhibits could be almost entirely purchased with Government money.

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7. The following Madras exhibits will be found particularly noticeable :—

- Old native jewelry.
- Brass and copper utensils.
- Wood-carvings.
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- Hand-printed fabrics and embroideries.

8. The collection of old native jewelry is not only interesting, but is in some respects unique. Amongst the lower orders of the native community the family jewels not only subserve the purpose of personal adornment, but represent the bank on which the family draws to meet sudden pecuniary emergencies. An unexpected demand for cash sends the family jewels to the shroff or pawn-broker, from whom they are again redeemed when better times arrive. In former days, whilst the value of jewels as a cash reserve was never lost sight of, the main use of jewelry for personal adornment was chiefly kept in view. Native jewels were then thoroughly well made and were of good—if sometimes archaic—patterns. Now, however, the craze for cheapness has so much depreciated the art, that modern jewels (with exceptions) are more valuable for the bullion they contain than for the workmanship bestowed on them.

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19. Some small portion of this balance will probably be required to meet the freight of any exhibits which may remain unsold at the close of the Exhibition, and will therefore have to be sent back to Madras.

20. Against the Rs. 20,000 actually drawn from the Accountant-General by this committee, added to the Rs. 2,000 received from Bengal, we have submitted bills for Rs. 20,507-14-9, which have been audited and passed. Bills for the remaining Rs. 1,492-1-3 will be submitted by the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, in due course.

21. The committee—consisting of the President with Dr. Bidie, Mr. Havell and Dr. Thurston as members—may now perhaps consider itself dissolved. Any future references will continue to be disposed of by the President.

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Exd. W. H. French.

150 Copies.

No. 1552 W.d/19 June 1886.

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Govt. of {1886} Madras.

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Mr. G. D. Leman, C.S., Collector of Coimbatore.  
M.R.Ry. T. Muthusami Pillai Avergal, Tahsildar of Coimbatore.  
Mr. H. G. Turner, C.S., Collector of Vizagapatam.

M. R. Ry. T. Murugesam Pillai Avergal, Inspector of Police, Madura district.  
M. R. Ry. Ramasami Naidu Garu, Commissary-General's office.  
Mr. A. Pinto, Deputy Collector, Chingleput district.  
Messrs J. C. Shaw, B. O'M. Deane, C. A. Lawson, and the other gentlemen comprising the committee which assisted in the collection of trade samples.

5. As regards the question of the dissolution of the committee, His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that it is undesirable that this should take place until the Exhibition has closed, all exhibits have been disposed of or returned, and all accounts have been finally adjusted.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,  
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To Colonel H. P. Hawkes.  
„ Deputy Surgeon-General G. Bidie, C.I.E.  
„ Dr. E. Thurston.  
„ E. B. Havell, Esq.  
„ the Public Department.  
„ the Military Department.  
„ the Public Works Department.  
„ the Board of Revenue.  
„ the Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture.  
„ the Government Botanist and Director, Cinchona Plantations.  
„ the Editors' Table.

Exd. W. H. French.

150 Copies.

Gobt. of (1886) Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 1552 W. d/19 June 1886

Recorded

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Encl.

G.O., 27th May 1886, No. 393.

B. No. 1552 W. d/19 June 1886

MAY.



Madras Committee of the Indian  
and Colonial Exhibition.

Recording report on the Proceedings of the  
—, and tendering the thanks of Government to  
the members and certain gentlemen for services  
rendered.

To.

C.A. to Govt.

With order

27TH MAY 1886, No. 393, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from Colonel H. P. HAWKES, President of the Committee for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 5th May 1886, No. 404 :—

As the Colonial and Indian Exhibition has now been opened in London, we have the honor to submit a final report on our proceedings.

2. In all previous Exhibitions it has been the custom to appoint local committees in communication with the Collectors of districts. To these local committees were allotted certain fixed sums to be expended in the purchase of exhibits, but beyond receiving a few general instructions from the central committee, their action was left untrammelled. They purchased such articles as they considered typical of the produce and manufactures of the district, accepted private exhibits offered either on loan or for sale, and transmitted the whole to the central committee in Madras.

3. The quality and suitability of the articles thus collected naturally depended, in a great measure, on the amount of taste and experience possessed by the members of local committees. The result was generally good, but amongst a large number of well-selected articles, there were too often included a proportion of inferior and unsuitable exhibits, which the central committee felt a difficulty in rejecting. These inferior articles depreciated the average excellence of the general collection.

4. The present Exhibition has differed from all its predecessors in the fact that it was decided from the first that especial prominence should be given to the due representation of Indian arts and art-industries, and as Government had allotted liberal funds for the purpose, it was found that the required exhibits could be almost entirely purchased with Government money.

5. The committee, feeling therefore that they must be fairly held responsible for the suitability of the exhibits collected by them, decided to dispense with the usual local committees, and to select the whole of the items themselves, merely asking the assistance of Collectors to procure exhibits according to lists prepared by the central committee.

6. This procedure naturally entailed considerable labor on the individual members of the committee, but it is hoped that the result will be found to justify the method adopted. It is not for the committee to offer an opinion on the quality of the collection brought together—this will be decided by the verdict of the public—but we think we may safely say that the general collection fully represents the limited number of the arts and art-industries of Southern India, and that it is free from those unsuitable contributions which have too often affected the average quality of former collections.

7. The following Madras exhibits will be found particularly noticeable :—

- Old native jewelry.
- Brass and copper utensils.
- Wood-carvings.
- Cotton and silk fabrics.
- Hand-printed fabrics and embroideries.

8. The collection of old native jewelry is not only interesting, but is in some respects unique. Amongst the lower orders of the native community the family jewels not only subserve the purpose of personal adornment, but represent the bank on which the family draws to meet sudden pecuniary emergencies. An unexpected demand for cash sends the family jewels to the shroff or pawn-broker, from whom they are again redeemed when better times arrive. In former days, whilst the value of jewels as a cash reserve was never lost sight of, the main use of jewelry for personal adornment was chiefly kept in view. Native jewels were then thoroughly well made and were of good—if sometimes archaic—patterns. Now, however, the craze for cheapness has so much depreciated the art, that modern jewels (with exceptions) are more valuable for the bullion they contain than for the workmanship bestowed on them.

9. The result is that the fine old patterns are fast dying out, and in a few years will exist only as a memory. The collection now brought together is composed largely of these good old patterns, and through the liberality of Government much of it will find a permanent resting place in the Madras Central Museum.

10. The brass and copper utensils were sent mainly to illustrate the *shapes* in general use, many of which are very good. As regards Tanjore-ware, purchasers had begun to weary of the never-ending repetitions of "Sawmy" work. The Superintendent of the School of Arts was therefore good enough to prepare several new patterns of purely Indian design, which were carried out for the committee.

11. Wood-carving is not a very flourishing art in Southern India, and its application is almost confined to the carved entrance doorways of native houses, temple cars, &c. The screen, however, which will form one of the most striking objects in our collection, afforded an opportunity of showing that the art was not altogether lost. It was designed by Mr. E. B. Havell, the Superintendent of the School of Arts, and executed by workmen under his personal supervision.

12. The carved sandalwood plaques procured for the committee by Dr. W. H. Lee are excellent specimens of this art-industry, but only one man now remains within the limits of this presidency capable of executing really good work.

13. Our cotton and silk fabrics are well known. The materials used are good, the colors are well blended, and the general effect is excellent. It is to be regretted, however, that Indian-made gold lace, which is worked on a silver basis, is being superseded by the cheaper foreign lace, the substratum of which is copper. The latter rapidly tarnishes, whilst good Indian lace may even be washed without sensible deterioration.

14. The collection of hand-printed fabrics is fairly exhaustive. It includes articles of all kinds, from the expensive palempores made in the Godavari district, which are partly printed in gold and cost from £20 to £30 each, to the ordinary printed handkerchief carried by the poorest cooly. Several series of wooden blocks, with which these palempores and chintzes are stamped, have been sent to illustrate the collection.

15. We have now the pleasing task of acknowledging the willing and courteous assistance given to us.

To G. D. Leman, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, and to his Tahsildar, M.R.Ry. T. S. Muthusami Pillai, we are indebted for some of the best items of our collection of jewelry; and from H. G. Turner, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, we received several very interesting specimens of the ornaments worn by the Telugu castes of the Northern districts of this Presidency.

M.R.Ry. T. Murugesam Pillai, Inspector of Police, procured for the committee an illustrative series of the jewelry worn by certain castes in the Madura district, and sent it most carefully labelled, and with full descriptive and pictorial details.

M.R.Ry. Ramasami Naidu of the Commissary-General's office and A. Pinto, Esq., Deputy Collector of Chingleput, also obtained many interesting items for the committee.

Dr. Lee's name has already been mentioned as having procured for us the only specimens of sandalwood carving amongst our exhibits.

16. A collection of trade exhibits was obligingly got together by J. Shaw, Esq., B. O'M. Deane, Esq., C. A. Lawson, Esq., and other gentlemen. In the duty of selecting these trade samples, the committee derived much assistance from the thorough knowledge of the subject possessed by Mr. Lawson.

17. Our receipts and expenditure have been as follows. The grant made by Government amounted to Rs. 30,000, and we have received Rs. 2,000 from the Supreme Government as part cost of the screen—total Rs. 32,000.

18. Out of this sum, the committee has expended nearly Rs. 22,000. It has also granted Rs. 3,000 to the Consulting Architect for the preparation of the models of buildings, and has remitted Rupees 664-5-9 (£50) to J. R. Royle, Esq., as a contribution towards the general expenses to be incurred in England. This makes a total expenditure of about Rs. 25,664-5-9, leaving a balance of Rs. 6,335-10-3 in the hands of the Accountant-General.

19. Some small portion of this balance will probably be required to meet the freight of any exhibits which may remain unsold at the close of the Exhibition, and will therefore have to be sent back to Madras.

20. Against the Rs. 20,000 actually drawn from the Accountant-General by this committee, added to the Rs. 2,000 received from Bengal, we have submitted bills for Rs. 20,507-14-9, which have been audited and passed. Bills for the remaining Rs. 1,492-1-3 will be submitted by the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, in due course.

21. The committee—consisting of the President with Dr. Bidie, Mr. Havell and Dr. Thurston as members—may now perhaps consider itself dissolved. Any future references will continue to be disposed of by the President.

ORDER—dated 27th May 1886, No. 393, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

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*Redmickie*

Ag. Secretary to Government.

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Aug. 88/6.

19/6/86

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