

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Police **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	<i>476</i>	Press Mis.
Dated	<i>11-5</i>	19 <i>66</i> .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

24/9/36
Q
2

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.

11th May 1866.

No. 55. Read the following letter from the Honorary Secretary, Madras Literary Society, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 8th May 1866.

I am directed by the Committee of the Madras Literary Society, and Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, to forward copies of letters from the Honorary Secretary to the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, in which he asks for assistance in forming a collection of Crania of the various races of mankind which inhabit British India and its frontiers.

2. The Committee consider that it is impossible to over-rate the importance of such an undertaking, and they are also of opinion that any collection of the kind would be comparatively useless and incomplete without specimens of the strongly marked varieties of race which are found on the plains and mountain ranges of this Presidency.

3. They, accordingly, venture to solicit that Government will help the Asiatic Society of Calcutta by recommending their proposals to the consideration of all officers who are enabled by their position to aid in carrying them out, and instructing the Medical service, more especially, to take advantage of such opportunities of collecting the required specimens as may present themselves in the course of their professional labors.

4. It will be observed that the Bombay Government has already responded to Dr. Anderson's appeal in a very encouraging manner.

From J. ANDERSON, Esq., M. D., Honorary Secretary, Asiatic Society, Calcutta, to the Honorary Secretary, Madras Literary Society; dated Calcutta, 1st November 1865.

I am directed by the Asiatic Society to solicit your aid in forming a collection of Crania of the various races of mankind inhabiting British India and its frontiers.

2. The Asiatic Society believe that, if such a collection were placed in the New General Museum, Calcutta, it would prove of immense value in an ethnological aspect, and might tend to elucidate the vexed question of the affinities of races, and to illustrate the relative Zoological significance of human structure. To arrive at such results as these, it will be necessary, not only to have several series of the Crania of all Indian races, but also a more extended one illustrating the various modifications of the general type of the race; for undoubtedly each race, when carefully examined, will present such a series. All Crania, therefore, of undoubted authenticity, which may attract your notice by even the most partially modified character of the general type, ought to be carefully preserved. Crania presenting any deformity ought also to be regarded as of great value; and in connection with this, I would specially direct your attention to the character and permanence of the various sutures. I mention these points, as it is desirable, in selecting Crania, to keep them in view.

3. I am requested to impress upon you, in the anticipation that you will kindly respond to this appeal, the very great importance, nay, absolute necessity, of observing strict accuracy in the details adduced as proof of the claims of a Cranium to be regarded as a member of a given race. No Cranium should be sent, unless of undoubted authenticity; for the presence of one Cranium of questionable origin in a collection claiming to be authentic lessens vastly the scientific value of the whole.

4. There is strong evidence of the authenticity of a Cranium, when we know that the individual was born, lived, and died among the members of the race which his skull claims to represent, and when, in addition, we are aware, that in life he presented all the external characters of the race, and conformed to its language and customs. One point, however, has to be guarded against even in such a case, and that is intercrossing, which is doubtless always found more or less in the outlying parts of the geographical area of the race, or where it impinges on other races; or it

3
X

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
11th May 1866.*

may even obtain in the centre or in any part of the area, if the race is brought under the influence of civilization, or is even partially civilized. I have been desired to impress these facts upon you, as they ought all to be considered in estimating the claims of a Cranium to be one of a given race.

5. It is desirable that measurements should be given of the various parts of the body mentioned on the opposite page; and in all cases, if possible, the locality where the individual was born, and the names of the parents ought to be mentioned. The nature of the food should be stated: and, if eaten raw, the fact should be mentioned.

6. The Crania should be labelled in paint or in ink on the frontal bone, and a list corresponding to the labels should be transmitted by post, a duplicate accompanying the Crania.

7. The skulls should be packed in boxes; and in preparing and packing them, great care should be taken not to injure the fine bony processes. All the teeth ought to be carefully preserved.

8. I again ask your kind attention to this appeal, and solicit your aid, in whatever form, towards the furtherance of this important scientific inquiry.

9. I am requested to say that the Society will have great pleasure in defraying all the expenses connected with the transit of the Crania to Calcutta.

Habitat.

Birthplace.

Name of race, tribe, caste, or variety.

Parentage.

Sex.

Age.

Height.

Length of arm, upper.

_____ lower.

_____ thigh.

_____ leg.

Breadth of chest under arm.

_____ body round pelvis.

Color of skin, and any peculiarities in the deposition of the pigment.

Color and character of hair.

_____ eyes.

Whether there is beard, whiskers, moustache.

Any peculiarity in the hand.

_____ foot, as prolongation of heel.

Food.

From J. ANDERSON, Esq., M. D., Honorary Secretary, Asiatic Society, Bengal, to the Honorary Secretary, Madras Literary Society; dated Calcutta, 14th February 1866, No. 103.

With reference to your letter, dated 28th November 1865, I am requested by the Council of the Asiatic Society to tender their thanks to the Managing Committee of the Madras Literary Society for the promised co-operation in the Society's attempt to elucidate and illustrate Indian Ethnology.

2. The Council have sent out 500 copies of their Circular letter, and as a Society they feel that now they can do no more but trust to the liberality of those who interest themselves in such inquiries.

3. I am desired to mention that the Government of Bombay have reprinted the Circular, and requested the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, to suggest a plan for giving the utmost possible effect to the wishes of the Asiatic Society, through the Agency of the Civil Surgeons and other Medical Officers in the Presidency.

*is Government, Public Department,
th May 1866.*

to suggest to the Bombay Government that every advantage which occurs in the public Hospitals, Jails, and Lunatic Asylums might be instructed to preserve carefully the skeletons of the Craniology of the Indian races, and I have hinted that those of Criminals who die or are executed in prison. If these casts were carefully kept as a contribution to Ethnology, it would give science.

special steps as yet to obtain the Crania of the tribes in West-

at Darjeling, I succeeded in taking busts from life of the major-
ity on the whole I found them quite willing for a few Rupees to

entations of the whole of the head, face, and shoulders of a man
e casts were taken from well known examples of each race, the
me of great value.

in the Imperial Museum devoted entirely to Indian Ethnology,
rania, casts from life, and photographs, and by the dresses and
ch tribe.

and suggestion that you might procure for the Society casts of
the originals cannot be procured, I am desired to say that the
in a series, and that it would form a very valuable addition to

gest that it would be very desirable to have a set of good typical
of all the Madras tribes.

ry able assistance from the Government School of Industrial Art

HEREON, 11th May 1866, No. 476.

the above letter will be communicated to the Principal
Department, with the request that he will instruct
it to render every assistance which may lie in their
views of the Asiatic Society.

Jails, Hospitals, and Lunatic Asylums have many
rania, or even perfect skeletons, and are generally in a
logical peculiarities in any particular case.

od enough to report, at an early date, the steps which
with this order, stating his opinion as to the results
omitting, for sanction, such proposals as he may deem
fect the wishes of the Government.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

Madras Literary Society.
General, Medical Department.

4 5
+
Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following
letter from the Honorary Secretary
Madras Literary Society.

(Here entered 4 May 1866)

Order thereon 11 May 1866 No 476.

The papers received
with the above will be communi-
-cated to the Principal Inspector
General, Medical Department,
with the request that he will
instruct the officers of his
Department to render every as-
-sistance which may be in
their power, in furtherance of
the views of the Asiatic Society.

2 Officers in charge of
Jails, Hospitals and Lunatic
Asylums have many opportunities
for procuring crania or even
perfect

JP
WDR

792-608-618-702-

No. 476.

Dated 11th May 1968.

55.50.