

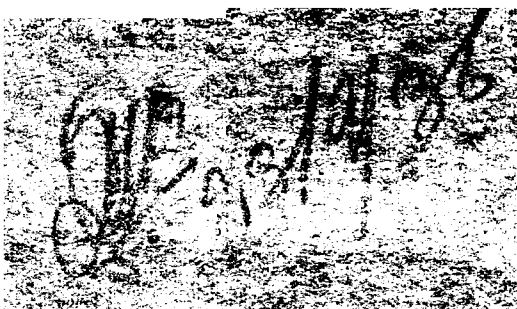
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	511	<u>Press</u> <u>Mis.</u>
Dated	18-5-	1966

Not to be folded or roughly handled



No. 511.

FROM

A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq.,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

To

THE HONORABLE W. MUIR,

*Secretary to the Government of India,**Foreign Department.*

SIR,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th January last, No. 101, calling for information on several points connected with the application of the Chef de Service at Mahé, for the concession to his Agent at Calicut of the privilege of franking service letters.

2. That letter was referred to the Collector of Malabar, and I now forward his reply, with copies of the correspondence that has passed on the subject between the Chef de Service, the Postmaster General, and himself.

3. It will be seen from the accompanying copy of a letter of the 2nd April 1852, from the late Mr. Conolly, that that Officer, when Postmaster, allowed all official letters from the functionary stationed at the French Factory ground at Calicut, to the address of the Chef de Service, to pass free.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,

18th May 1866.

Chief Secretary.

From the Collector of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Calicut, 23rd April 1866, No. 50.

Dated 20th January 1866, No. 101.

* G. O., 5th February 1866, No. 142.

From Collector, to Chef de Service, dated 16th February 1866, No. 594.

From Chef de Service, to the Collector, dated 3rd March 1866, No. 7.

From Collector, to the Post Master General, dated 16th February 1866, No. 593.

From Post Master General, to the Collector, dated 1st March 1866, No. 8621.

From Collector, to Chef de Service, dated 9th April 1866, No. 1191.

From Chef de Service, dated 20th April 1866, No. 14.

Adverting to the letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,* referred to me for report, I have the honor to submit the correspondence noted, which has passed between the Chef de Service, the Postmaster General, and myself, on the subject of the French Agent at Calicut being empowered to frank service letters.

2. Firstly—as to the existence of a French Agent at Calicut—I can only repeat what I said in my previous letter. It is known to Government that Malabar is divided into Amshoms or Parishes, and that in each of these there is an Adigari, a functionary nearly corresponding to a Head of a village in other districts. There has been, as far as I can learn, an Adigari occasionally, or continuously, employed in connection with the French ground at Calicut, but this man has never been in any way recognized as a French Agent, further than as performing the petty fiscal duties which might devolve upon him in collecting a few house-rents, &c., for the French Government.

3. Secondly—as regards franking—the Chef de Service has now forwarded a letter from Mr. Conolly, when Postmaster, stating that Service letters from the functionary stationed at the French Factory ground at Calicut, to the Chef de Service would be passed free. How far this permission was acted on, or whether it was acted on at all, I am unable to learn from the records of the Post Office or this Office. There is no evidence to this effect either on my office records or those of the Post Office. I can only suppose that the functionary alluded to by Mr. Conolly was the Adigari, and, as the Chef de Service speaks of the privilege as customary, that it has been occasionally exercised.

4. Thirdly, it will be gathered from what I have said that I am quite unable to state from my own records whether the power of franking was ever actually enjoyed, and, if so, when and for what cause it fell into abeyance.

5. The matter in fact was never, as far as I can ascertain, mooted, save as abovementioned in Mr. Conolly's time, till Monsieur Liautaud's letter to me as noted.

Dated 2nd December 1865, No. 45.

From the Collector of Malabar, to the Chief de Service, Mahé, dated Calicut, 16th February 1866, No. 594.

With reference to the correspondence noted, and to enable me to reply to a reference made by Government, I have the honor to request you will have the goodness to afford me information on the following points :—

1. Whether you, or your predecessors, at Mahé ever had an Agent stationed at Calicut before the appointment of the officer alluded to in your letter under reference ?

If so, what was his official appellation and status ; and was the employment of such Agents continuous ?

2. In the event of the previous employment of such former Agent, had he, or any other French official in the neighbourhood of Calicut, the power of franking letters on the public service ?

3. In the event of any French Official having formerly had the power of franking, when and for what reasons did it fall into abeyance ?

I beg to be favored with a reply at your early convenience.

No. 7.

Monsieur le Collecteur de Malabar à Calicut.

Monsieur le Collecteur,

J'ai l'honneur de répondre à votre lettre du 16 Février dernier, No. 594, et de vous faire connaître.

1^o Que mes prédécesseurs et moi nous avons toujours entretenir, et nous entretenons encore à la loge Française de Calicut un Agent à poste fixe.

Que son titre officiel est, d'Agent Français à la loge de Calicut, que ses attributions sont celles de percepteur des revenus de la loge, et que son emploi a toujours été, et est continuel et non interrompu.

2^o Que cet Agent a toujours eu le contre seing des lettres et des paquets de Service adressés soit au Chef de Service, soit au Procureur Impérial, soit Receveur du Domaine.

3^o Qu'à partir de la nomination du Sieur Barboza comme Resident Français de la loge, nomination dont il vous a été donné avis, le Directeur de la poste à Calicut s'est toujours refusé à envoyer franc de port les lettres et les paquets contresignés soit par l'Agent percepteur, soit par le Resident Français de la loge ; ce qui a donné lieu à la correspondance échangée entre vous et mon prédécesseur les 27 Décembre 1864, No. 45, et 3 Janvier 1865, No. 5.

Je me permettrai de vous faire remarquer à cette occasion, Monsieur le Collecteur, que le pouvoir de contresigner des lettres et paquets de Service n'a cessé que par le refus du Directeur de la

Poste à Calicut de laisser continuer cet état de choses, et que ce n'est pas une nouvelle concession que mon gouvernement demande au vôtre, mais bien la continuation de cette faveur.

Agrérez, Monsieur le Collecteur, l'assurance de ma considération très distinguée.

Le Chef du Service.

(Signé) JTE. A. D'ARGOUGERY.

From the Collector of Malabar, to the Postmaster General, Madras ; dated Calicut, 16th February 1866, No. 593.

In enclosing copy of a letter to the Chef de Service, Mahé, I have the honor to request you will inform me if your records show that any Agent of the French Government at Calicut has at any time exercised the power of franking on the public service.

Dated this day.

2. I cannot find from my records that any recognized Agent was employed, or that any power of franking existed.

From the Postmaster General, Madras, to the Collector of Malabar ; dated Madras, 1st March 1866, No. 8621.

In reply to your letter, No. 593, dated 16th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that the Agent of the French Government at Calicut is not included in the franking lists, and is consequently not authorized to frank letters on the Service.

2. There is nothing on the records of this office to show that the above officer ever exercised the power of franking.

From the Collector of Malabar, to the Chef de Service, Mahé ; dated Calicut, 9th April 1866, No. 1191.

Adverting to your letter dated 3rd March 1866, I have the honor to inform you that neither in the records of my office nor in those of the Post Office, nor indeed amongst the people of the neighbourhood, can I find anything to support your opinion that service letters were heretofore forwarded from the French lodge here to other French authorities.

2. May I request the favor of your communicating to me any evidences your office may afford of the existence of such custom.

No. 14.

Mahé, le 20 Avril 1866.

Monsieur le Collecteur du Malabar à Calicut.

Monsieur le Collecteur,

En réponse à votre lettre du 9 du courant, No. 1191, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, sous ce pli, copie conforme de celle qui a été adressée à l'un de mes prédécesseurs, le 2 Avril 1852, sous le No. 635, par M. Conolly, alors Post

1 annexe.

Master du Malabar, et en vertu de la quelle tous les rapports et les lettres officiels de l'Agent de la Loge de Calicut ont été transmis à Mahé francs de post jusqu'en 1864.

Agrérez, Monsieur le Collecteur, l'assurance de ma considération très distinguée.

Le Chef de Service.

(Signé) JTE. A. D'ARGOUGERY.

From the Collector of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Calicut, 11th May 1866, No. 59.

Adverting to your Memorandum, dated 5th instant, I have the honor to send herewith copy of Mr. Conolly's letter to the Chef de Service, therein called for.

From H. V. CONOLLY, Esq., Postmaster of Malabar, to Monsieur HAYES, Chief of Mahé ; dated Calicut, 2nd April 1852, No. 635.

In reply to your communication, dated the 29th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that the Post Office Writer at Calicut has been authorized to receive, and forward free of postage, all public letters to your address from the functionary stationed at the French Factory ground at this place.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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Public Department

No. 311.

To His Excellency W. Muir

Secretary to the Government
of India.
Foreign Department.
Agriban

I am directed by His
Excellency the Governor in
Council to acknowledge the
receipt of your letter of the
20th January last No. 101, calling
for information on several points
connected with the application
of the Chief du Service at
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his Agent at Calicut of the
privilege of franking service
letters.

2. That letter was referred
to the Collector of Malabar,
and I now forward his reply
with copies of the correspondence
that has passed on the subject
between

I don't think that the
letter is sufficiently conclusive
I will not forward any
communication to the Supreme Govt.
without a copy of the original
letter recognizing the right
of the Agent.

between the *Chef du Service*,
the *Postmaster General* and
himself.

3 It will be seen from
the accompanying copy of ~~the~~
~~letter of the 2nd April 1852~~
~~from the post office~~
that *Mr. Conolly*, when
Postmaster, allowed all official
letters from the *Functionary*
stationed at the *French*
Factory ground at *Cadient*
to the address of the *Chef*
in *Service* to pass free.

[Signature]

St. George
18th May 1866

Walter Webb Esq

N^o 571

The way to the Court
of Canada
Toronto Sept.

Dated 18th May 1866.

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