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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	268	Press
		~~Mis.~~
Dated	14-3-1867.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

14th March 1867.

Read the following papers :—

No. 77. From Surgeon F. DAY, Medical Storekeeper, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated 5th March 1867.

I have the honor to request the permission of Government to thoroughly examine, measure, and, if I think it necessary, make drawings of any fish in the Government Central Museum, as I am engaged upon an inquiry into the fishes of Madras.

2. The Superintendent, fearing that some injury might accidentally befall the specimens, does not like to personally give leave.

3. I have previously, at the British Museum, the College of Surgeons, and the India, obtained permission for the examination of their specimens, as well as at the Museum in the "Jardin des plantes" in Paris, and, as I personally stuff all my own specimens, I am quite conversant with handling fish skins; but, to be on the safe side, I will be responsible for any injury I may occasion, for as I only wish one case at a time open, it will be easy to ascertain if any specimen has been in the least injured, which I will be careful does not occur.

Referred to the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum, for his remarks.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,

5th March 1867.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

Chief Secretary.

No. 78. From the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 5th March 1867, No. 42.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter* from Surgeon F. Day to your address, and which you have been pleased to refer to me for my remarks.

* Dated 5th March 1867.

2. Surgeon Day (in a note) asked me to allow him to have the cases open, and to measure the stuffed fish, to which I replied that I had no objection to his having the cases opened, but that I had great objections to his measuring the fish. My reasons for making this objection are the following :—

1st. It took me some years, and cost the Government a considerable sum of money, to get together the present collection of stuffed fish, and I consider it my duty to take every possible care that they shall not be exposed to injury.

2nd. In this climate, the fish become exceedingly brittle, and a very slight touch often suffices to break a fin, and, of course, spoil the specimen, and I cannot conceive it possible to handle and measure fish without injuring them more or less.

3rd. The only way to obtain accurate measurements of fish is to measure the fish as soon as possible after it is captured. Nearly all the fish in the Museum have been obtained from the Fishermen, and if Surgeon Day is really desirous to get accurate measurements and drawings of the fish of this coast, he should obtain them from the market, as I have done. No Ichthyologist would dream of measuring stuffed fish, so long as fresh ones could be procured. Surgeon Day, in one of his notes, mentions some Aden fish; now these, in particular, are shrivelled and broken, and utterly useless for any scientific purpose. They are only in the Museum because I have not been able to replace them. I would turn them all out this moment with great pleasure.

4th. I can see no reason why I should run the chance of injury to the fish for what appears to me a mere whim of Surgeon Day's. I cannot bring myself to look upon it in any other light.

5th. I do not, of course, know what indulgences Surgeon Day may or may not have received in European Museums; doubtless, their keepers took ample care to prevent their specimens being injured. It may not be known to the Government that the British and other National Museums are not open every day. According to the latest information I have on the subject, [the Natural History department of the British Museum is open to the general public only three days in the week, except during certain holiday seasons; on two other days, known as closed days, Zoological and Botanical students can obtain permission to examine such portions of the collection as they may be studying. As this is always done in the presence of the person in charge of the room, ample precautions are doubtless taken to insure the safety of the collection. The system here is very different: this Museum is open every day, there are no closed days, and, if there were, my work does not allow me the leisure to wait upon any one who might wish to examine the specimens, and there is no one else to whom I should like to entrust the task.

3. Lastly, I think it is desirable that I should forward, for the information of Government, Surgeon Day's last letter to me on this subject, the tone of which is, in my opinion, very objectionable, and the third paragraph simply a threat. If Surgeon Day supposes that I am to be deterred from doing my duty by threats, he has mistaken his man. I was trained in too good a school to be moved by any consideration of that kind.

From Surgeon F. DAY, to the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum; dated 2nd March 1867.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your official letter, definitely refusing me leave to inspect and measure the fish in the Government Central Museum, observing that such measurements are of no scientific value, and that most of the species may be obtained in the market.

2. I do not coincide in your views, and have not the opportunity of obtaining all the fish from the Bazaar, where some of the Aden and Bengal species, to my belief, are not to be had.

3. I am sorry to have to trouble Government on such a trivial occasion, but I shall now make an application to Government to be permitted to examine, and, should I see requisite, take drawings of any of the fish in the Government Central Museum, and also have free access to any books in the library attached thereto.

4. In making this application, I shall append copies or originals of the letters sent to or received from you, with any further communication you may wish to be attached.

No. 79. ORDER THEREON, 14th March 1867, No. 268.

The Governor in Council cannot comply with Dr. Day's application.
(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

Edw. J. H. Burns.

To the Chief Secy. Sir
J. H. Burns.

13
I have the honor to request the permission of
Mr. F. Thompson, Manager, to examine the
specimens in the collection of the
British Museum, and to take drawings of them.
I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours, Sir, very respectfully,
F. Thompson.

I have the honor to request the permission of
Mr. F. Thompson, Manager, to examine the
specimens in the collection of the
British Museum, and to take drawings of them.
I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours, Sir, very respectfully,
F. Thompson.

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British Museum, and to take drawings of them.
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Yours, Sir, very respectfully,
F. Thompson.

26 March 77

Prof. J. J. Day

MS. 268

Public 1864 Sept
 From J. J. Day to Prof. J. J. Day
 August 1864
 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst. in relation to the fish in the Fort Central Museum, and in reply to inform you that the same have been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

Yours very truly
 J. J. Day
 5 March 1867

Prof. J. J. Day
 Information, should be
 in form of a letter
 addressed to the
 Museum for their
 consideration.

127 2 1867

To
 Prof. J. J. Day
 Medical School
 Madras

(Dated 27 March 1867)
 Recd

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to
 Captain Mitchell
 Fort Central Museum

That the same be known to the public
 from official letter definitely referring me
 have to inspect and measure the fish in the
 Fort Central Museum, observing that such
 measurements are of no scientific value, and
 that most of the species may be obtained in
 the ~~market~~ market.

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 fish from the Bazaar where some of the
 Andam and Bengal species may be obtained
 and be had.

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 a most trivial occasion but I shall
 now make an application to the
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 against the drawings of any of the
 fish in the Fort Central Museum, and

Proc. 14 March 1867
 Sub. No. 301/67

that I had great objections to
 measuring the fish. My reasons for
 making this objection are the following.

N^o 42

Government Central Museum
Madras 5th March 1867

From

Captain J. Mitchell

Supdt. Government C. Museum

To

The Honorable A. J. Arbutnot

Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of a letter from Surgeon J.
Day to your address and which you
have been pleased to refer to me for my
remarks.

*dated 5th March 1867
& returned herewith*

Surgeon (Day) in a note) asked
me to allow him to have the cases open
and to measure the stuffed fish, to
which I replied that I had no objection
to his having the cases opened but
that I had great objections to his
measuring the fish. My reasons for
making this objection are the following.

1st It took me some years and cost the Government a considerable sum of money to get together the present collection of stuffed fish and I consider it my duty to take 'every possible' care that they shall not be exposed to injury.

2. In this climate the fish become exceedingly brittle and a very slight touch often suffices to break a fin and, of course, spoil the specimen, and I cannot conceive it possible to handle and measure fish without injuring them more or less.

3rd The only way to obtain accurate measurements of fish is to measure the fish as soon as possible after it is captured. Nearly all the fish in the Museum have been obtained from the Fishermen and if Surgeon Day is really desirous to get accurate measurements and drawings of the fish

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I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servant,

Frederick Clouston

Supdt Genl Central Museum

March 1867

Geological Museum

Mar. 14. Green Mt.
1842

2012

Edmund J. Mitchell

Edith Lytle B. Moore

The Herald of Liberty

Chief way to front

301. Ad. St. Grey

1867 } March 1867

With Dear Love, &c.

According to

reguarda a remanente inform

Original Copy Letter of

the 5th Jan. 1867.

And the following letters.

Order. of the 20th of March 1879.

The Governor in Council
meeting with Dr. Lang's appli.

cation.

W. B. D. N.

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Letter of the mother to the

no dinner. Nay -

the Capital & not Central

28 March 1902
 12 " " 1902

With an edge