

Public (1899) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1229

Dated 31-10-99

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing Mr. Sewell that Govt. is prepared to subsidize his translation of a ~~manuscript~~ Portuguese manuscript relating to the Empire of Vizianagar to the extent of Rs 150 on the understanding that it will supply to this Govt. one hundred copies of the work published, and stating that the necessary arrangements for meeting this charge will be made in the final d

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Cuo	3267 74			1411 74			
Cuo	10 of 1900			28-1-79			
Cuo	1963/00 (not sealed)						

Public (189 9) Department.

CURRENT No.

Order

From R. Swell Esq
 5 Palace Mansions
 Buckingham Gate
 London.

No. 2

Dated 14 Aug 99

Received 5 Sept "

Registered 6 " "

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Request for a grant for
 the publication of certain
 old chronicles.

During the past few years the translation of a chronicle, viz. in French, relating to the reign of Henry III. has been undertaken by the authorities of the British Museum. In Paris a chronicle of the reign of Henry III. has been published, and it is proposed to publish a similar work, and to assist in its publication.

revised project

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
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	357-2	"	4 4 97 85

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

N^o 2.

address

6 Palace Mansions
Buckingham Gate.
London S.W.

August 14th 1899

From Robert Sewell

I.C.S. (Retired)

To The Chief Secretary to Government
Madras.



I have the honor to request your attention to my letter which I have called No. 1, and its enclosures. You will see, para 2, that I have completed the translation of a very valuable M.S. in Portuguese relating to the Empire (it was much larger than a kingdom) of Vijayanagar, lent to me by the kindness of the French Government from the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. My attention was originally called to it by Senhor Lopes of Lisbon who published it in Portuguese for the Vasco da Gama celebration, under the title of "Chronica dos Reis de Bisnaga". The M.S. had never before been published.

2. Its particular value lies in the fact, first, that it contains the only really full account of what the capital city Vijayanagar was like in the height of its grandeur; secondly that it contains a full historical survey of the dynasties that ruled over that Empire down to the year 1535 A.D. It sheds a flood of light on a large number of points hitherto veiled in mystery. Thus, for instance, in my sketch of the Dynasties of

in a manuscript of a page

that the Government of Madras, should help me, with a grant, to publish a work which principally concerns Madras.

8. The terms of the grant - I was The Secretary of State were these - I was given a sum of £200 on condition of supplying 3 copies of the "Indian Calendar" to the India Office Library. The pecuniary success or failure of the book was not gone into. That £200 represented about half the cost. The rest was covered more or less by orders from India.

9. In the present case I ask for a grant of £150, which I think will fairly cover the cost. I, as labourer, ask that, as I have had all the labour I should be remunerated as I have been doing. It is hard to say my days in India, spending all my time in working for India, and not getting anything for it. So that I hope the Government will acquit me of any very great need as to advice in this asking for assistance.

10. If the Government are pleased to accede to this request, perhaps they will say how many copies they would desire to be sent to them.

I have the honour to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Robert Percival

No. 2

Request for a
grant for the
publication of
certain old
chronicles

R 23. 8. 11

Public (189 9) Department.

CURRENT No.

Order

From *S. A. M. S. (Retired)*
Palace Museum
Birmingham, Date 5.11
1899

No.

Dated *14. Sept. 99*

Received *3. Dec. 99*

Registered *5. Dec. 99*

Enclosures -

Spare copies -

SUBJECT.

Requesting the Madras Govt
to assist him in publishing
the Portuguese chronicle relating
to the Kingdom of Vijayanagar

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Sept. 14. 1897.

CHIEF SECRETARY
OF PALACE MANSIONS
BUCKINGHAM GATE, S.W.

To The Chief Secretary to
Government
Madras

From Robert Sewell
M. C. S. (Retired)

Sir In continuation of
my recent letter, in
one of which I asked
whether the Madras Govern-
ment could, of its kind-
ness, assist me in the publi-
cation of the Portuguese
Chronicle relating to the
Kingdom of Vijayanagar,
I have the honour to
send you an extract from
an article in French, read
before the last Congress
of Orientalists in Paris,
in 1897.

It relates solely
to the importance of these
Chronicles, and its author
was its editor in 1892,
Senhor D. Lopes,
a celebrated Orientalist.

That the great importance of these chronicles was specially laid before the Congress constitutes a strong argument for their publication in English since they relate exclusively to the former history of a portion of the Indian Empire.

Speaking of the old Portuguese, Italian & Dutch chronicles, Leubar Lopes wrote "most of their works are inaccessible in consequence of the language in which they are written."

Of the authors of these chronicles of the Kingdom of "Bicnaga" he says;—

"These authors knew the country and were well placed in the trade in horses between Goa and Bicnaga; and the trade in horses ... was so important that Goa fell into decadence after the ruin of Bicnaga (1555).

The authors, then, are not men who went there solely out of curiosity or as idle travellers of the time. They are business men doubtless

"possessing a knowledge of the languages of the country. They must have resided there a long time and could see at leisure."

"What materials have we for forming a history of that Kingdom? India in general has no historians. We hardly find anything which merits the name of history. What we have said of India is General applies also to the Kingdom of Vijayanagar. We possess no connected history (at present). The inscriptions are numerous but they do not suffice - have only to enable us with doubt and difficulty to make a complete list of the Kings, there being several variations. we are compelled to say that no complete history can be written by the aid of the epigraphy and numismatology of the country.

"Therefore this present chronicle of Bicnaga seems to be the fairest complete monument that we possess regarding Bicnaga. Written by persons who knew the country, and at the moment

CURRENT No. 27

brilliant epoch of its his-
tory, it will be a hope for
the specialist ~~to have~~
~~of the country~~ a real vid-

fall... It is a precious
document for the history
of the kingdom. I know
no work in any language
that can compare to it,

either from the point of
view of history, or for its
description of the country,
and above all of the capital.

He concludes by
saying that none of the
Italian travellers who
visited the country, Nicolo
di Conti, Varthema, or
Federici, "have given us
so precise a chronicle."

The government
will, I trust, see, as I see,
the political importance of
teaching the natives of
India the true history
of their country, and the
dissipation of the cloud
of false notions on the
subject which now
surrounds them.

I have the honour
to be, Sir,
your most obedient servant

R. Sewall.

Copy
Copy

Public DEPARTMENT

U. No. 2457 From Mr. R. Sewell, No. 2, dated 14.8. 1899.

Dr. J. H. H. H.

Amorini

In this letter, Mr. Sewell asks Govt. for a grant-in-aid of £ 150, to enable him to publish a translation of a valuable M.S. in Portuguese relating to the ancient empire of Vijayanagar.

2. In the case of the "Indian Calendar", Mr Sewell states that he received a grant of £ 200 from the India Office. This Govt. aided by the purchase of 200 copies of the work. (S.O. no 1047 Fine, dated 21-12-95).

3. *Sp. Mus. Senilis* *prunum*

quest is favorably received,
the terms on which the grant
should be made might be
considered, & financial might
be asked whether the money
can be made available.

Cu
40-9-99 2.7.99

CJ

A further letter from Mr.
Sewell, in which he addresses
further proof of the
importance of his proposed
publication is submitted
(Am 1755)

NY
6.7.99

7/10/99

I certainly think that
assistance should be
given to Mr. Sewell to
publish his translation.
I shall be glad of
a further note
as to the amount &
the ^{properly} wh. may be given
the terms.

MT 8.10.99

Office.
Please examine the previous
proofs & put up papers.

11/10/99

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R 26 10 1999

Public Commission
2497 & 2755

Public Dept

note.

With reference to the
Hij order on the note
below, a few pounds
for grants in aid of the
publication of books of
interest have been obtained
& put up.

1. In the case of Mr.
Sewell's book "The Indian
Calendar", this Govt. aided
him by the purchase of
200 copies (80. Am 1047) dated
21.12.95). In his
present letter no 2 dated
14.8.99, Mr. Sewell says
that the S. Govt. gave
him £200 in aid of its
publication on the condition
of his supplying 3 copies to
the Indian office library.
2. In the case of the
revised edition of "Brown's
Telugu-English Dictionary"
brought out by the S. P. K.

2. granted a subsidy
of £500 (Sp. L. 402 B. 1
of 2.7.96)

3. for Beauchamp's
translation of Albi Dubois'
"Mœurs, usages & Coutumes"

Govt. gave a subsidy of
£100, receiving in return
150 copies of the book.
(Sp. L. 530 B. 1 of 1.9.96)

4. Mr. Sawell asks
for a grant of £150 to
enable him to bring out
his translation of the
Portuguese Chronicle of
Vizayanagar - He does not
state the probable price
of the work or how many
copies he proposes to
print - He might be
asked to say how many
copies he is prepared to
supply to Govt. if he is given
a grant of £150.

5. All previous questions
relating to the subscription of
publications have been
dealt with in full

I think we may give
at 150 but I wd speculate
for 100 copies. They will
all be needed sooner
or later. MA 25-10-99

The further disposal of
this case might be taken
up in next Dept.

C. 1
14.10.99

MA.

I submit Mr. Sawell may
be given £150 provided he
supplies 20 copies of the work
which will supply the India
Office & India & this office with
a sufficient number of copies.

MA 10/12/99

Govt. 11/20/99

For C. 3.

Please see draft order on the
attached sheet.

JWS
25/12/99

To the Hon. Secy
" " A. G. } P (as revised) 40.
4/1/00

C. No. 2457 From the Robert Sewell Esq., I. J. S., No. 2, dated 14-3-1899.
 „ 2755 „ „ Robert Sewell Esq., I. J. S., „ „ „ 14-3-1899.
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ORDER
 His.

No. 1229 of 31-10-99

Subm 2 that this order may be made in full.

for 25/1/99

For the C.S. Finl. Dep

Para 2 may be C. D. it is sub.

Cert. 21. 10. 11

Mr. Sewell will be informed that the Govt. is prepared to subsidize his book to the extent of £150 on the understanding that he will supply to this Govt. one hundred copies of the work when published.

2. The necessary arrangements for meeting this charge the amount of the amount will be made in the Financial Dept.

(From Orders)

for 25/1/99

for 25/1/99

for 25/1/99

To

R. Sewell Esq.,
 6, Palace Mansions,
 Buckingham Gate S.W.

to the Finl. Dept London
" " A. G. } P (as revised) 40.

Desd. 14/1/99

Given for copying
n copied
n examined
n signed

3-11-1896

G.
40

5,000-1

AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT NO.

ENCLOSURE TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.-

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only
Q = Copy heading only

17.1.25 II ✓

14.8.08 ✓

15.8.13 ✓

12.6.31 ✓