

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Paper laid before the Legislative Council by command of
His Excellency the Governor.

18th September 1877

SINGAPORE, 30th April, 1877.

Sir,—I have the honor to forward for the information of His Excellency the Administrator, the enclosed Reports for the past year on the Raffles Library and Museum, and on the Botanic Gardens, drawn up respectively by Mr. James Collins, Librarian and Curator, and Mr. H. T. Murton, Botanical Superintendent, and by them submitted to the General Committee.

I have, &c.,

The Hon^{ble} J. Douglas, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) Wm. ADAMSON,
Chairman, Raffles Library and Museum,
and Botanic Gardens.

Report on the Raffles Library and Museum for the year 1876.

THE LIBRARY.

I have great pleasure in reporting the increased prosperity of the Library during the past year.

The number of Subscribers for 1876 is as follows:—Life Members 9, 1st-class Subscribers 50, 2nd-class Subscribers 206. The number for 1875 was—Life Members 9, 1st-class Subscribers 50, 2nd-class Subscribers 131. The number for 1874 was—Life Members 9, 1st-class Subscribers 31, 2nd-class Subscribers 62.

The Subscriptions received during the year amounted to \$767.10.

10,285 volumes have been lent during the past year, and nearly 800 new volumes have been added by purchase, besides a number of Blue Books, &c., presented by the Government.

The number of visitors to the Reading Room was about 4,000, the same number as in 1875, chiefly consisting of Naval and Military Officers, Passengers and Naturalists, but the number of Residents has been exceedingly small, and a proposition is now under consideration to open the Library one or two evenings in the week for their especial benefit.

The Committee for a long time anxious to get more space than that kindly placed at their disposal by the Municipal Commissioners in the Town Hall, brought the matter to the attention of the Government, who placed at their disposal the first and second floors of the new wing of the Raffles Institution. After carrying out certain alterations to render the premises more fitted for a Library, the removal of the books, &c., was commenced early in December, the Library being closed for this purpose from the 26th of December, 1876, to the 22nd of January, 1877.

The large room appropriated to the Library gives about twice the space available before, and has allowed of the books being classified into subjects.

This new arrangement of the books has shewn very many deficiencies in some subjects, which the Committee are endeavouring to make good as soon as possible.

The only alteration in the Library Rules has been to close the Library on Government holidays.

The Rules for Subscribers in the other Settlements have not yet been put in operation, arising from the difficulty in getting any one to act as Local Secretary.

THE MUSEUM.

As will be seen from last year's report, the want of room in the Town Hall, precluded anything being done. However, in the new building, there will be room to form the nucleus of a good and interesting Museum.

It would be well here to give an outline of what kind of specimens may fairly be shewn in the Museum.

1. Food Substances, such as grains, starches, esculent vegetables, edible fruits, saccharine substances, &c.

During the year a large number of new plants have been introduced, but many valuable offers I have been compelled to refuse through my inability to keep up the requisite correspondence.

2,374 baskets of flowers have been sent from the Gardens during the year and 9,632 plants have been distributed in Singapore and to other Government establishments in England and the Colonies.

To the Directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, the British India Co. the Eastern and Australian Co. the Messageries Maritimes, the Agent in Singapore for Messrs Jardine Mathieson and Co. and Messrs Aratoon Apear Co's steam ships, the Gardens are indebted for cases of plants carried free of freight.

An expedition to Quedah, Penang and the neighbouring states was undertaken in the early part of the year for the purpose of an acquaintance with the Flora of the country, a report of which has been already submitted to you.

The gardens have sustained a severe loss during the year by the death of the late manager Mr. Niven, who has been connected with the Gardens since their commencement and originally laid them out.

It is to be hoped that a successor will be speedily appointed, as the necessary garden operations cannot possibly be carried on satisfactorily by one European, considering the impossibility of procuring skilled labour for garden work in Singapore.

The following are the principal contributors of plants and seeds during the year: C. Ford Esq., Government Gardens, Hongkong, several consignments of Chinese plants and seeds; Dr. Schomburgk, Adelaide, large consignments of Australian seeds; Dr. Hooker, Kew, seeds and Hovea plants; Dr. Thwaites, Ceylon, seeds and plants; The Acclimatization Society, Queensland; Dr. Scheffer, Buitenzorg; W. Hill, Esq., Brisbane; W. G. Edgar, Esq., Rockhampton, and Sir Wm. McArthur, Sydney, consignments of Australian and New Guinea plants and seeds; Major Berkeley, Madras, and Dr. King, Calcutta, valuable collections of Orchids; Mr. Piero, Saigon, improved varieties of Sugar-cane; J. Horne, Esq., Mauritius, and J. Cameron, Esq., Bangalore, collections of plants, and from M. H. Williams, Esq., Tredra, Cornwall, a good collection of Gloriosa and other plants.

A detailed list of contributors is given in Appendix II. of this Report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. J. MURTON, Superintendent.

To the Gardens Sub-Committee.

Report on Zoological Gardens.

Singapore, 6th March, 1877.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to submit to you the following report on the Zoological Gardens for Year 1876.

A very fine young tiger has been received from His Highness the Sultan of Tringanu, through His Excellency the Governor; a leopard from His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Siam, and a leopard from W. Hargreaves, Esq. Large cages have been provided for these animals, and they are now located together on the site of the old Orchid-house.

A large enclosure has been erected for the Emu, Cassowaries and Kangaroos on the side of the Gardens near Cluny Road.

The Monkey-house presented by Mr. Cheang Hong Lim, mentioned in Mr. Krohn's report for 1875, has arrived, and is in course of erection.

One night in February, some person or persons, entered the Gardens and succeeded in killing a large bear, an Emu, a Cassowary, and a Kangaroo. A reward of \$30 was offered by Government for any information that would lead to the arrest of the guilty persons; but no one as yet has been convicted of the dastardly action.

The deer enclosure along Garden road put up in 1874, by the late Mr. Birch is now quite rotten and of no further use, consequently the deer have been removed to the Kangaroo enclosure.

An Estimate has been received for putting up a strained wire fence 6 feet high for two enclosure. An Estimate for 1877 will not possibly allow us to accept \$1,018.12; which our Estimates for 1877 will not possibly allow us to accept.

Several contributions of animals have been received; several have also been declined for want of sufficient accommodation.

A house has been erected near the aviary for the Manager of this Department.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, Your Obedient Servant,

H. J. MURTON, Superintendent.

The Chairman of Gardens Sub-Committee.

RAFFLES LIBRARY & MUSEUM,
Singapore, January, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward for the consideration of the General Committee of Management the accompanying copy of a Report for the past year on the Raffles Library and Museum, drawn up by Dr. N. B. Dennys, Librarian and Curator, which was adopted provisionally, by the Sub-Committee of Management at a meeting held on the 5th instant.

At the same meeting a resolution was come to, which I feel pleasure in carrying into effect, that in forwarding the report an expression should be given of the high sense entertained by all the members present of the zeal and judgement displayed by Dr. Dennys in the arduous undertaking of organizing the institution in its two departments, and of the valuable results which have already rewarded his labours.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant.

C. J. IRVING,

Chairman of the

Sub-Committee of Management.

To

The Hon'ble John Douglas

Chairman of the General Committee of

Management of the Raffles Library and Museum.

Report on the Library and Museum for the year 1877.

LIBRARY.

ALTHOUGH but little has to be added to previous reports regarding the financial condition and prospects of the Library, certain changes have to be noted in its arrangement and organization. The new premises placed at the disposal of the Committee by the Government proved amply sufficient both for the accommodation of the books and for the convenience of readers; and nothing was needed but a re-classification of the volumes, and the issue of a complete and reliable Catalogue, by the aid of which each work could be immediately found, to enable the Library to take a high place amongst similar institutions. These objects have, by December 31st, 1877, been so far accomplished that the general Catalogue has been compiled and issued while the Synoptical Index and Supplementary Catalogues have both been placed in the printer's hands, thus affording a complete and exhaustive means of reference to every bound work in the Institution on the date named.

The number of visitors recorded during 1877 is 3,928; but as, owing to then impending changes in the Librarianship, a period intervened during which the proper records were neglected, the general total may be estimated at about 4,500. Since October 16th, the Library has been kept open every Tuesday and Friday evening from 7 till 9.30 P.M. and this arrangement has been largely availed of by visitors, the average number for these hours having been 27 persons.

The number of paying subscribers on the books at date is 147, in addition to which 6 residents are entitled, as former proprietors of the Singapore Library, to the privileges of subscribers. The distinction between 1st and 2nd Class subscribers was abolished by the general Committee, and material concessions made to subscribers at the out-Stations on November 1st. The new Rules being bound up with the Catalogues issued I do not here recapitulate them.

The number of works lent during the year is about 5,500; but an imperfect and cumbersome method of keeping the accounts prior to August 1st, renders this only a matter of estimate. The number of new works added during the year 1877 is 705, and the general contents of the Library may now be summarized as follows:—

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Ornithology—The cases now contain 63 mounted specimens, viz: *Raptors* 6, *Insectores* 24; *Scansores* 12; *Races* 10; *Grallatores* 4; and *Nalatores* 7.

Acting on the suggestion of a distinguished Indian Ornithologist, all birds received which can positively be pronounced natives of Singapore are retained unmounted, awaiting his visit to this part in the spring when he will aid in their accurate identification.

Two small collections, one of Borneo birds and one of Malacca birds, have been sent to the great Ornithological Museum at Simla for a similar purpose, while the Curator of that Institution has despatched a large and handsome collection of Indian birds to this Museum free of cost.

Of **Mammals**, the Museum as yet can show scarcely any mounted specimens, *Rodentia* (1), *Quadrumania* (4), *Cunicara* (1) and *Edentata* (?) exhausting the list. But the Museum possesses three skeletons of value, that of a Sumatran rhinoceros, horse, and tiger besides sundry skulls, &c.

Of **Ophidia**, a very fair but as yet unidentified collection, both local and exterior, is in place, prominent amongst it being the skin and skeleton of a very fine female python, presented by H. H. The Maharajah of Johore. The latter forms a really beautiful preparation and reflects great credit on the Museum Osteologist. It is noteworthy that of the numerous specimens of the serpent tribe presented since I have been in charge, only one *Cobra di Capello* (and that a very small one) has come to hand. There is an ample field for research respecting the Ophidia and Thanatophidia of the island and peninsula, in which I hope some day to labour. Meanwhile residents can effectively aid by sending every specimen caught to the Museum with full details as to the locality, Native name, &c., &c. Of *Chelonia* there are 3 specimens in the Museum.

Of **Ethnological** specimens the Museum possesses a very fair share, as a beginning and as such objects are always attractive, their presentation is highly valued.

Nothing in fact now remains but for the community to cordially aid the Institution to make it of high scientific and popular interest. I have entered into correspondence with many of the leading men at home and elsewhere in various branches of Natural History, &c., and hope before another year elapses to be able to report the receipt of important aid in these departments.

The list of presentations since 1st August (prior to which no record was kept) is as follows:—

(refer to Mus. Reg.)

Aitken, Mr. D;	1 Carved Root
Angus, Mr. G;	1 E. I. Co. Despatch box
	1 Exhibition Medal 1862.
	1 bottle Kayu Puti
	1 " Pepper oil
	1 " Patchouli oil
	1 " Macassar oil
	Shells from Buddoh ✓
Hanerott, Dr. J;	2 Pamphlets (Queensland)
Rayless, Mr. W. D;	126 Specimens of Clays &c.
Beecher, Mr. H. M;	23 Geological Specimens from Galena Mines
Bernard, Mrs;	1 Pterocerus Colossus (cocoa-nut weevil) ✓
Bernard, Mr. F. G;	White ant Queens in Spirits
	Weaver birds nests
Bernard, Mr. C. G;	1 Live Cobra Di Capello
	1 Live Snake
	1 Black Snake
Bernard, Mr. A;	2 specimens Sphinx Moth
	1 Burong Rangoon
	2 Birds (Singapore)
	1 Wader
Boinville, Mr. A. C. De;	1 Paddy Bird
	2 Birds (Singapore)
	5 Birds (Singapore)
	17 Snakes (Macassar)
	1 bottle Insects (Java)
Borneo, Company (Limited)	1 Snake
Brannand, Messrs;	2 Shells
	Samples of Singapore and Rhio Gambie
	1 bottle long Pepper
	1 " Siamese Sticklac
	3 " Specimens of Coffee
	1 " Sticklac (Saigon)
	2 Green Snails
	3 Tortoise Shells
	2 Specimens Gamboge (Siam)
Burrows, Captain;	1 Crab
Baxton, Mr. C. B;	12 Insect boxes
Capel, Mr. H;	1 Red-faced Macaque
	1 Hawk