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Formation of an evening Mechanical Drawing class at the Presidency College

EVENING MECHANICAL DRAWING CLASS AT THE PRESIDENCY COLLEGE

[58.] Dated Calcutta, the 10th December 1872

From - Lieutenant-Colonel H. Hyde, R.E., Mint Master,

To - H. Luttman-Johnson, Esq., Offg., Private Secy. to Lieut.-Governor of Bengal

Some time ago on speaking to the Lieutenant-Governor regarding my desire to start an evening class to teach mechanic drawing to mechanics and artizans, both European and Native, His Honor gave me to understand that if a scheme was put before him in a tangible form he would be prepared to sanction it, and to give a grant of money for the purpose.

2. There has been some difficulty and considerable delay in maturing the scheme, but now that a great difficulty, viz. that of providing a suitable room for the purpose, has been removed by the offer, from the head of the Presidency College, to place at the disposal of the class for the evenings the room used by the civil engineer classes during the day, I am able to submit my proposals.

3. The proposals are -

To begin by opening a class three times a week in the evening after all work shops are closed to teach free of charge drawing to mechanics and artizans, both European and Native.

That applicants should only be admitted to the class on certificates of character, either from their employers or other responsible parties.

That the drawing to be taught shall be simple mechanical drawing of a nature to enable workmen to understand drawings of articles given to them, and to make rough working drawings of articles they are called upon to make in the practice of their trade; that is, the teaching will be confined to that which is necessary to make working men efficient, and it will in some trades include a small amount of mechanical instructions that will be necessary to ensure a proper understanding of the work.

4. If, as is probable, some of those attending the classes show ability to go beyond what is provided for in the class at first, such men will have to resort to the civil engineering classes; but if hereafter a sufficient number advance as to enable a higher practical class to be started, a special class may be opened on a separate evening for the purpose.

5. For starting the school the following will be required :-

Expenses. - Gas to be laid on to the room occupied in the Presidency College; the Executive Engineer has estimated the cost of this to be Rs. 450.

To provide drawing-boards, straight edges, squares &c., Rs. 200.

Stationery. - Authority to indent for such as may be necessary on the Stationery Office, rough paper only will be required with pencils, &c.

6. For conducting the school -

A drawing master, European Mechanical Engineer, salary per month	Rs. 100
A native draughtsman to assist	Rs. 30
Chupprasee	Rs. 6

Total ..	Rs. 136

7. The pay of the drawing master may at first seem large for so short attendance, but this attendance will form only a small portion of his work, the main part of which will be in preparation of drawings for the men to copy.

The following shows somewhat the work to be done:-

- 1) —Simple lines and geometric figures.
- 2) —Outline drawings of small objects, full size, to be copied with the object before the learner.
- 3) —Outlines, drawing to scale, of larger objects to be copied with the object before the learner.
- 4) —Rough plans of buildings, such as bricklayers would be called upon to understand.
- 5) —Drawings of work, such as carpenters and others of like trades would be called upon to use.
- 6) —Drawings, such as turners and fitters would be called upon to use.
- 7) —Drawings to supply a knowledge of all ordinary scales.
- 8) —Drawings of all kinds showing how each description of work is in practice set out.

8. These drawings would necessarily have to be made from actual objects, so that every object may be brought into class to enable the learner to examine it with the drawing.

9. From this it will be seen that the teacher of drawing will have to devote considerable time to the work.

10. As soon as His Honor sanctions the scheme and the grant of money, I propose to advertize the school in all such vernacular papers as are likely to give publicity to it, and I propose to send round a circular to all employers of labour, inviting to send their good men to the class.

[59.] No. 4559, dated Calcutta, the 20th December 1872.

From — J. Ware Edgar, Esq., Offg., Junior Secy. to the Government of Bengal,

To — Colonel H. Hyde, R.E., Mint Master.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th December, in which you make proposals for the formation of an evening class at the Presidency College for the instruction of artizans and others in mechanical drawing.

2. In reply I am to communicate to you the Lieutenant-Governor's thanks for moving in this matter. His

Gas fitting	...	...	Rs. 450
Instructive apparatus	...	...	Rs. 200

Total	...	Rs. 650	

Monthly Charges

Drawing Master	...	...	Rs. 100
Native draughtsman	...	...	Rs. 30
Chuprassi	...	...	Rs. 6

Total	...	Rs. 136 per mensem	

Honor most readily sanctions the scheme propounded by you, and also the expenditure of money involved as shown on the margin, on the condition of your undertaking to manage the details of the plan.

3. The Director of Public Instruction will be apprised of these orders, and the Principal of the Presidency College will be authorized to arrange all particulars in communication with yourself.

4. Instructions will be issued to the Stationery office for the supply of the articles enumerated in paragraph 5 of your letter.

Nos. 4560-61.

Copy of this letter, and of the one to which it is a reply, forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction, and to the Principal of the Presidency College for information.

[60.] No. 4564, dated Calcutta, the 20th December 1872

From — J. Ware Edgar, Esq., Offg. Junior Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal,

To — The Superintendent of Stationery

The formation of an evening class of mechanical drawing, to be held at the Presidency College, having been sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor, I am to request that you will be so good as to order the issue for the use of the pupils of as much stationery from time to time of the nature noted on the margin as may

be required on indents signed by Colonel H. Hyde, R.E., Master of Her Majesty's Mint, who has charge

of all arrangements in connection with the class.

Rough paper, Pencils, &c.