

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

REPORT OF THE MUSEUMS DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1923.

FINANCIAL.

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.

1. The total amount voted was \$49,130, exclusive of the cost of the Clerical Service, and the total amount expended, exclusive of the Clerical Service, \$46,506. Savings were chiefly due to a subordinate appointment remaining vacant and the transfer of a senior officer to Singapore.

Expenditure was distributed as follows :

	Estimated.	Expended.	Savings.
Federal	\$43,796	\$41,364	\$2,432
Perak	2,266	2,182	84
Selangor	3,068	2,961	107
Total	\$49,130	\$46,507	\$2,623

OTHER CHARGES: ANNUALLY RECURRENT.

2. The total amount voted was \$15,875, of which \$14,635 was spent.

OTHER CHARGES: SPECIAL EXPENDITURE.

3. For further work on Gunong Tahan \$18,000 was budgeted for in the 1923 Estimates, of this \$12,991 were expended. Special supplementary provision of \$5,000 was sanctioned for preliminary meteorological work on Cameron's Highlands and, as this proved insufficient, sanction was obtained to transfer \$5,000 from the Gunong Tahan vote. The actual expenditure on Cameron's Highlands was \$8,317.

The total expenditure on the Museums was, therefore, \$82,449 against \$60,308 in 1922 and \$72,519 in 1921. In all cases the cost of the Clerical Service and of temporary allowances is not included.

REVENUE.

4. The revenue collected amounted to \$326, made up as follows:—Sale of publications, \$220; taxidermist's fees, \$83; sale of duplicate specimens, \$11; miscellaneous \$12. Out of the first item \$139 was for the sale of publications of the Committee for Malay Studies.

GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS.

5. The grounds of both Museums were maintained at a cost of \$833. The domes of Selangor Museum still gave trouble owing to leaks again developing in them.

ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS.

ZOOLOGICAL.

6. From Gunong Tahan, between November, 1922, and February, 1923, the Systematic Entomologist obtained collections of insects which prove to be valuable acquisitions.

A report on the Diptera Nematocera belonging to the Museum is being prepared by Mr. F. W. Edwards of the British Museum, to whom specimens were sent for comparison and determination; about sixty species are new to science and many more are recorded for the first time from the Malay Peninsula.

During April, the Systematic Entomologist paid a visit to the Zoological Museum at Buitenzorg, Java, where some interesting comparative studies were made.

A collection of Orthoptera was taken to Dr. Karny at Buitenzorg who is a well-known specialist on certain groups belonging to that order, and a full report is to appear during the coming year.

The Systematic Entomologist made two further expeditions, in each case to Cameron's Highlands, during June and October, on both occasions much interesting material was accumulated, and is being dealt with as quickly as possible.

The reference insect collection now comprises nearly 700 boxes and sixty cabinet drawers full of insects, in addition to the exhibition series in the Main Gallery of the Museum.

This exhibition series will be increased as soon as some of the groups at present in the hands of specialists are returned, and it is hoped to have as complete a series as possible of insects found only on the Malay Peninsula. Constant requests are made, from several sources, to the Systematic Entomologist to determine insects.

A number of insects of bionomic interest have been submitted to Professor Poulton at the Hope Department at Oxford. The results appear from time to time in the *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of London*.

During the latter part of the year the Systematic Entomologist was asked to report on the prevalence of house flies at various places in the Malay Peninsula.

Our thanks are due to many correspondents who have continued to send in interesting specimens during the past year.

Except for a few new Batrachia from Perak and Pahang, which have been described by Dr. Malcolm Smith, there were no noteworthy additions to the collections of vertebrates.

BOTANICAL.

7. Early in the year the Systematic Botanist accompanied the Forest Research Officer on a trip to the lowlands of Pahang, between the Semantan and Krau rivers, where a collection of several hundred plants was made. Nothing of any very great interest was obtained on this trip, but, as the Forest Research Officer had a large coolie force at his disposal, several tall trees were cut down, and specimens obtained which otherwise would have been out of reach of the ordinary methods of collecting.

In March, several cases of named duplicates were received from Kew Herbarium. These were duplicates of collections made at various times by the Museums Department, Federated Malay States, as well as of collections made by Mr. Ridley in 1917 and 1920. Several types and co-types were included, mostly of Peninsular Siamese plants. These specimens, with the exception of a number of duplicates, have been mounted and incorporated.

The Wray Herbarium, which has been for some time in the custody of the Forest Department, was taken over and installed in the Museum. This consisted of four large and three small glass-fronted cases, to which were added one large and one small case from Taiping, which had originally belonged to the Herbarium. Recently, five large, and six small cases, of the same type and size, but unglazed, have been added.

The Wray Herbarium is very incomplete, and contains no Monocotyledons or *Filices*, but the great majority of the sheets were distributed from Calcutta, where they were named by Sir George King, who quotes them in his *Materials for a Flora of the Malay Peninsula*, and are therefore valuable, as many are types or co-types. The Herbarium contains not only Wray's specimens, but a large number collected by Künstler, Curtis, and Scortechini.

The work of labelling, mounting, and incorporating the collections, which had been partly named at Taiping the previous year, was now immediately begun, and by the end of the year a large number of sheets had been laid in. This necessitated the rearrangement and expansion of the Herbarium, but the sequence of the families—that of Bentham and Hooker's classification, which is used in most herbaria—was not interfered with; the genera and species are arranged alphabetically.

In June, in company with the Director of Museums and the Systematic Entomologist, a trip was made to Cameron's Highlands, Pahang. Several days were spent at Jor, Batang Padang, where a collection of about a hundred plants was made. Another few days were spent at Lubok Tamang (3,500 ft.) on the Bertam River, Pahang, where several interesting plants were found, including a Honeysuckle, which has been described in the *Museums' Journal* under the name of *Lonicera malayana*, Hend. This constitutes the first record of the genus from the Malay Peninsula. On Cameron's Highlands a collection of some three hundred plants was obtained, all of which were desiderata. This collection has been nearly all worked out, with the help of Mr. R. E. Holttum of the Singapore Herbarium, who determined a number of ferns and other plants.

In August, the Systematic Botanist spent a fortnight on Fraser's Hill with a party from the Forest Department, and made a collection of some four hundred numbers. Only a few of these have, so far, been worked out. The Assistant Director, too, while engaged on other work on Gunong Tahan, secured a small, but interesting, series of plants.

ETHNOGRAPHICAL.

8. Very little field work was done during the year, though the Ethnographical Assistant made an exploratory expedition to Gunong Benom, Pahang. The mountain top was reached *via* Raub and the Ulu Dong and from the summit a descent was made to Kuala Krau by way of the Terbul and the Krau. As this appears to be the first ascent of the mountain that has been made from the west, no guides were obtainable and the compass only was used. The country proved to be of a very broken nature, the jungle full of thorny rattans, and water scarce. The descent to Kuala Krau was easier, but here again lack of guides was a serious trouble. The Sakai of the Krau River, however, know the best route to the mountain, but, as these people were not encountered until the last two days, little use was made of their services. The results of the expedition were, from an ethnographical point of view, most disappointing, as no aborigines were encountered until the Krau River was reached.

The year was not noteworthy for additions to the ethnographical collections though a few specimens of *chutam*, silverwork and embroidery were purchased, and also a very beautiful specimen of the kingfisher kris, which came from Kelantan. Some further interesting relics were, however, obtained from Sungei Batu Estate, Kedah, with the kind assistance of Mr. J. J. Picton Davies and the Acting Manager of the Estate, while thanks are also due to the Kedah Government for allowing their removal. In 1921 an ancient granite figure of a Hindu deity, since provisionally identified as Durga, was acquired from the same locality. The present specimens comprise two blocks of granite, one water-worn, one roughly squared, with channels cut in them, which obviously formed part of a conduit, and two sculptured blocks of the same material. On one of these the carving is so ill-defined that it is not possible to say what the object was meant to represent. The other had originally, according to information derived from coolies on the estate, a representation of the elephant-headed god, Ganesha, on it in relief, but the figure was smashed for road metal by the coolies, without their informing anybody of their find, and all that now remains is a large block of stone, partly dressed, on one side of which is a plaque with some remains of carvings in relief.

The last three months of the year were largely occupied in packing and shipping specimens for the British Empire Exhibition. A representative collection of Malay weapons, silver and jewellery was sent from the Perak Museum, this being supplemented, to some extent, by specimens from Selangor. Other exhibits from the Perak Museum comprise mounted animals—a rhinoceros, a tapir, a tiger and a serow—and eight Malay caanon.

A series of photographs, illustrating the Perak River potting industry was taken for the Exhibition, and other pictures for use in certain pamphlets. The Ethnographical Assistant also accompanied the Official Photographer to Kuala Kangsar where pictures of Malay silversmiths and embroidery-workers were obtained, as well as of river scenes, the mosque and the Malay college. Other photographs, illustrating Malayan zoology and arts and crafts, were taken in the Perak Museum.

PUBLICATIONS.

9. Three parts of the *Journal of the F.M.S. Museums* appeared during the year. Parts 1 and 2 of the volume XI contain papers on the Cicadas of the Malay Peninsula and part of the zoological results of a trip made to Peninsular Siam by the Systematic Entomologist in 1922, as well as a paper by him on four new species of *Bombus*. Part 2 of volume VIII, pp. 311-366, has addenda to the results of Messrs. Robinson and Kloss's Korinchi Expedition. A further number of the *Journal*, containing ethnographical material, was in the printer's hands at the end of the year, and also a long paper on a collection of birds from Sumatra and some descriptions of new lizards and frogs.

A number of the *Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam* contained a paper by Messrs. Robinson and Kloss on the birds of South-west and Peninsular Siam while an account of a new sunbird, by the same authors, was contributed to the *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists Union*.

A book, published by the Cambridge University Press, appeared in June, which contains the collected results of the Ethnographical Assistant's work, in so far as the customs and beliefs of the aborigines of the Malay Peninsula are concerned, as well as some papers on Malay subjects and a considerable amount of material regarding North Borneo.

The Ethnographical Assistant contributed two pamphlets for the British Empire Exhibition, one dealing with native life, the other with Malay arts and crafts, while a catalogue of all books of ethnographical interest in both Museums was almost ready for the press at the end of the year.

STAFF.

10. The Director of Museums was in charge of the department throughout the year.

The Assistant Director, Mr. C. B. Kloss, was transferred to Singapore on October 4th as Acting Director, Raffles Museum and Library.

The Ethnographical Assistant was transferred from Taiping to Kuala Lumpur on November 29th to act as Assistant Director.

The Systematic Botanist was transferred from Taiping to Kuala Lumpur in March, while, on the Ethnographical Assistant's transfer in November, he was again temporarily stationed in Taiping.

The Technical Assistant, Mr. E. Seimund, went on long leave in April.

Mr. D. Rushton, Meteorological Observer, left for home in June, his agreement having expired.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

11. The vote of \$200 for the upkeep and preservation of the remains at Pengkalan Kempas was handed over to Capt. L. D. Gammans, District Officer, Coast, Negri Sembilan, who has taken a great interest in the protection of these unique relics.

A strong barbed wire fence has now been placed round the reserve, access now being by means of a high stile only. The cattle, which formerly visited the spot, are thus excluded.

The District Officer has also purchased a supply of drain-pipes and the work of putting these in will be undertaken during 1924. The reserve being adjacent to a tidal river, tends to become water-logged, and constant attention to drainage is necessary.

CONSERVATION.

12. Conservation entails a considerable amount of routine work each year. The entomological collections were inspected at intervals in order to keep down the ravages of mould, which is so common in this country. During the past year it has been found that this pest has been kept in check, possibly owing to the boxes becoming seasoned and to the use of beech-wood creosote, which is painted around the inside edges of the store-boxes. The spirit collections of insects were also inspected and expanded. The series of mammals and birds were also examined at intervals.

LIBRARIES.

13. Out of a vote of \$2,000 only \$1,433 were expended.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

14. Reference has already been made to the shipping of representative collections of weapons and silver, and of some zoological specimens, to the British Empire Exhibition. A great part of the Director's time during the latter half of the year was occupied in making preliminary arrangements with regard to the Arts and Crafts Division of the Malayan Section. A large number of cases containing a very fine selection of objects illustrating modern Malay arts and crafts had been shipped at the end of the year. The most notable features of these purchased exhibits are beautiful Malay embroideries from Kuala Kangsar, Malay pottery from the same district, Trengganu white-metal ware, walking-sticks and *chutam*-ware from Kedah; Port Dickson and Malacca basketry, school-made baskets from the Sultan Idris Training College, silk and cotton sarongs from Pahang, Kelantan, Trengganu, Johore and Province Wellesley, mats from Pahang and Trengganu and modern jewellery and weapons from Kelantan.

Arrangements for two Malay Officers of the Civil Service and nineteen Malay workers and attendants to be present at the Exhibition were also well in hand.

METEOROLOGICAL.

15. The observations on Gunong Tahan were completed and the mountain finally evacuated on July 23rd. A preliminary report on the observations was laid before the Federal Council in November.

Work in connection with observations on Cameron's Highlands was commenced in August, and two stations were established. The first, on Rhododendron Hill, at an elevation of approximately 5,200 feet, was opened for work on September 1st, while the second, at Tanah Rata, and of an approximate elevation of 4,800 feet was ready at the beginning of October.

The Director of Museums and the Systematic Entomologist relieved the two Meteorological Observers on Gunong Tahan during January and February, while the Director also visited Cameron's Highlands in connexion with meteorological work during June and October.

The Assistant Director was in charge of the evacuation of Gunong Tahan.

KUALA LUMPUR,
3rd March, 1924.

I. H. N. EVANS,
Acting Director of Museums, F.M.S.