

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

REPORT OF THE MUSEUMS DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

FINANCIAL.

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.

1. The total amount voted was \$54,665, including supplementary votes, but exclusive of the cost of the Clerical Service. The total amount expended, exclusive of the Clerical Service and temporary allowances, was \$43,424. Savings were chiefly due to the fact that some of the usual activities of the department had to be curtailed owing to shortage of staff due to leave; and the deputing of a senior officer to Singapore. One subordinate appointment remained vacant throughout the year.

Expenditure was distributed as follows :

		Estimated.		Expended.		Savings.
Federal	\$49,034	\$37,988	\$11,046
Perak	2,303	2,256	47
Selangor	3,328	3,180	148
Total	\$54,665	\$43,424	\$11,241

OTHER CHARGES : ANNUALLY RECURRENT.

2. The total amount voted was \$21,175, including a supplementary vote, of which \$9,775 was expended.

OTHER CHARGES : SPECIAL EXPENDITURE.

3. Under this heading, \$5,000 was voted on behalf of Meteorological Investigations on "Cameron's Highlands," a supplementary vote of \$700 was granted, and of this total, \$5,615 was expended.

A special expenditure warrant of \$617 was issued for insect cabinets, and of this sum, \$610 was expended.

The total expenditure on the Museums was, therefore, \$59,424 against \$82,449 in 1923 and \$60,308 in 1922. In all cases the cost of the Clerical Service and temporary allowances are not included.

REVENUE.

4. The revenue collected amounted to \$359, made up as follows :

Sale of publications, \$185; taxidermist's fees, \$112; sale of duplicate specimens, \$58; miscellaneous, \$4. Out of the first item, \$134 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 \$848. The roof of the Selangor Museum gave further trouble during the year.

ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS.

ZOOLOGICAL.

6. The additions to the collections were mostly invertebrates, and chiefly consisted of a number of interesting insects taken on "Cameron's Highlands" during January and March.

Several of these forms are new to science, and others are recorded from the Malay Peninsula for the first time; in some cases the range of a species has been appreciably extended, and the existence of others in this country has linked up the chain of distribution between Burma and the larger Sunda Islands.

The Ethnographical Assistant made a small but interesting collection of insects in the southern part of Peninsular Siam during April and May, in the intervals of carrying out his own researches.

Field work of a protracted nature, subsequent to May, was not possible owing to the shortage of staff.

A small collection of mammals, birds and insects from Christmas Island were received during May from the Director, Raffles Museum, Singapore.

The Technical Assistant has added several skins of the local mammals and birds to the collections. He has also made additions to the fish collection, and has stuffed and mounted several for exhibition purposes.

A tapir, acquired early in the year, has also been mounted and will be put on exhibition.

Specimens are constantly being received from other departments and institutions for identification.

Our best thanks are due to many correspondents who presented interesting specimens to the Museums during the year.

BOTANICAL.

7. During January the Systematic Botanist was detailed to relieve one of the Meteorological Observers on "Cameron's Highlands," and in spite of the fact that little time was available for botanical work, some 200 numbers were collected including a new species of *Fagraea* and a new species of *Diospyros*.

ETHNOGRAPHICAL.

8. The Ethnographical Assistant undertook an expedition to the southern part of Peninsular Siam during April and May for the purpose of investigating, obtaining specimens of manufactures, and making observations with regard to linguistics and culture of the Negritos (or Semang), who are still to be found in some parts of Trang and Patalung. A full report on his researches will appear in due course.

PUBLICATIONS.

9. Three parts of the *Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums* were published during the year. Parts 3 and 4 of Volume XI contained papers by Dr. Malcolm A. Smith on some new Batrachia from the Malay Peninsula; a paper on two genera of plants new to the Malay Peninsula by M. R. Henderson; and a long paper by Messrs. H. C. Robinson, C. Boden Kloss and E. Jacobson on a large collection of birds chiefly from West Sumatra made by the latter. Other papers included nomenclatorial remarks on Sumatran birds by E. Stresemann; and addenda and corrigenda to the Cicadas of Malaysia by J. C. Moulton.

Part I of Volume XII (Ethnographical number) included six articles by the Ethnographical Assistant: An Expedition to Gunong Benom; on a coin mould from Kelantan; ancient clay vessel from the Langkawi Islands; lucky and unlucky *këris* measurements; some beliefs of the Lenggong Negritos; and Vaughan-Stevens and the patterns on Negrito combs.

To this number, Wan Lela, Penghulu of Kuala Lipis, Pahang, contributed an article on Ethnological Miscellanea. A Generic Index to Volume XI was printed, and at the end of the year, material for Part I of Volume XIII (Zoological number) was in the Printer's hands.

STAFF.

10. The Director of Museums (Mr. H. C. Robinson) proceeded on long leave on January 3rd.

The Ethnographical Assistant (Mr. I. H. N. Evans) was appointed to act as Director of Museums from January 3rd until June 13th, when he went on long leave.

The Systematic Entomologist (Mr. H. M. Pendlebury) was appointed to act as Director of Museums from June 13th; and from April 24th to September 24th was acting for the Malaria Research Officer in addition to his other duties. He was also acting as Game Warden, Selangor, from January 3rd.

The Systematic Botanist (Mr. M. R. Henderson) was deputed to the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, as from June 30th.

The Technical Assistant (Mr. E. Seimund) was temporarily transferred to Taiping Museum on April 1st, and was appointed to act as Game Warden, Perak, from that date.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

11. The vote for \$200 for the upkeep and preservation of the remains at Pengkalen Kempas was handed over to, and administered by Capt. L. D. Gammans, District Officer, Coast, Negri Sembilan.

The Museum received during June from the District Officer, Coast, Negri Sembilan, an interesting addition to the collection in six carved panels from Old Lukut Fort, near Port Dickson.

CONSERVATION.

12. The study collections of birds and mammals in both Museums were inspected and cleaned at intervals.

The entomological study collection at Kuala Lumpur now comprises eight hundred store boxes and three cabinets, as well as an extensive collection of material in spirit.

In addition to this, there is the exhibited series in the main gallery, of which the butterfly collection has been re-arranged and expanded. Formerly, this series was mounted in cases lined with a cork carpet, but it was found that the moisture in the atmosphere has caused this material to swell and crack, and is detrimental to the specimens mounted on it.

This cork carpet is being replaced with sheet cork, and a representative collection of all the larger Malayan insects will eventually be exhibited on this medium. The ravages of mites and moulds are held in check, but constant vigilance is essential.

Over six thousand Malayan insects from the study collection have been distributed to recognized specialists on various groups for comparison and determination. This is of importance, especially at the present time when much revisionary work is being undertaken. The Malayan invertebrate fauna has been very poorly represented in, or entirely lacking from some of the standard works in the past.

In addition to the above, a few species of bionomic interest, together with notes and observations have been submitted to Professor E. B. Poulton of the Hope Department, University Museum, Oxford. These notes are published from time to time in the *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of London*.

LIBRARIES.

13. Out of the vote of \$2,000 only \$692 were spent during the year under review.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

14. During the early part of the year much time was devoted to the preparation and despatching of exhibits to the Arts and Crafts Division, Malayan Section, British Empire Exhibition at Wembley Park.

Further requests for basketry, hats and other examples of native arts and crafts were received during the year, and additional consignments were despatched at intervals.

METEOROLOGICAL.

15. Observations have been continued throughout the year at the two stations on "Cameron's Highlands."

A report on the year's observations, October, 1923, to October, 1924, is being published as a separate paper.

A new station was established on Fraser's Hill on October 1st.

All the hospital stations in the Federated Malay States were visited by the Meteorological Observer during the year. The instruments were tested, and defective ones replaced as far as possible. Instructions in the reading and care of instruments were given to the dressers at the various stations.

A model station was established in the Lake Gardens, Kuala Lumpur, during November; more advanced courses of instruction in meteorological work are being given to hospital dressers at this observatory.

KUALA LUMPUR,
18th February, 1925.

H. M. PENDLEBURY,
Acting Director of Museums, F.M.S.