

C O P Y

COPIES OF REFERENCES

From the Government of India.
No. 4989 - G.M.

Viceregal Lodge,
SIMLA, the 17th May, 1926

Dear Mr. Descubes,

The Government of India have had your collection of Botanical Plates examined. The result of the examination has been highly satisfactory both from the view of scientific value and as works of art. The Government of India have, however, reluctantly come to the conclusion that the collection is really more suitable for sale or presentation to some Museum or University in Europe or India than for purchase by Government.

Have you ever thought of approaching the authorities at Kew or the Natural History Museum at Kensington or the New York Natural History Museum? It is possible that these institutions might be interested in the collection and wish to buy it.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd- F. G. De MontMorency

2. From: - The District Forest Officer and Superintendent,
Agri-Horticultural Society's Gardens, Madras

I have witnessed the wonderful Collection of what I would call Mr. Descubes "Icones plantarum" consisting of some nearly 5,000. pieces showing the flowers, leaves and fruit of different trees, shrubs, plants and herbs that Mr. Descubes has met with and painted from life during his extensive travels, in all their morphological detail and coloring, together with their proper and local names in many different languages and dialects extending to as many as twenty or more in number, besides a botanical description and explanation of their uses in many cases. The amount of labour this must have involved is amazing and the fact that the greater part of it was done while he was on active service makes it still more so. The representations are true to the life and Lord Reading, the Riceroy, who inspected them along with Lord Wellington, the Governor of Madras, while I was present helping Mr. Descubes in arranging the plates, was loud in his encomiums of Mr. Descubes wonderful work, which he did more than once during his tour of the Banquetting House, Government House, Madras, where they were exhibited. This coming from a man who has studied Botany himself as Lord Reading has, is a Certificate that should recommend the plates for possession by some of our Botanical and Herbarium Institutions of the World or be incorporated in some work of Tropical Botany.

Dated Madras, 20th December 1923.

Sd. C. A. Thompson

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C O P Y

Extract from a letter from England to India

3rd April, 1924

Dear Monsieur Descubes

I must begin by introducing myself, as the lady who came from the Kundabs, to see your wonderful drawings, last year, with Mr. Stevenson of Birdwoods.

My excuse for writing is that Sir Fairless Barker, before going home, spoke of your work, and thought the Government ought to take an interest, that they deserve, and a place in the BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION

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Your drawings should find a firm and proper public ground to rest on and as all who have seen them are able to realize their value, take a public interest in your private work, The Director of Kew would like to have an idea of the work, Mrs. Forby has asked me to send a list, giving their natural order and Miss Forby would promise faithfully, that the illustrations would not suffer.

From Viscount Gosehem, Governor of Madras

Government House
Octacumund, 23rd June, 1927

Dear Sir,

In returning herewith your book of botanical drawings which you were good enough to leave at Government House for inspection by Viscountess Gosehen, I am to let you know how much Her Excellency has enjoyed seeing your work and how much interested in the subject matter. Both Their Excellencies were impressed with the immense care and exact attention to detail shown in these plates and I am to thank you for giving them the opportunity of examining them. I am to add that in Their Excellencies opinion your work constitutes a most valuable addition to the scientific study of BOTANY

Descubes,
Bijou Cottage.

Yours very truly,
sd. ?????????
Private Secretary

From Lord Hennessy: Mauratius Island

12th January, 1886

Dear Descubes

I return herewith the box of your most beautiful and perfect drawings of the Mauratius plants.

I was not aware, until you had left the other day, that you had called. I hope you will let me have the pleasure, when next you can come to Reding of congratulating you on having produced such first class works of art.

Lady Hennessy has been examining them also with great interest and admiration, I hope you are continuing your botanical pictures.

Believe me, Yours very faithfully

Sd. -- Hennessy