

*Public Museum.***No. 11 of 1873.****An Ordinance to provide for the establishment and regulation of a Public Museum in Colombo.**

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the establishment and regulation of a public museum in Colombo for the instruction and recreation of the people, and this Council has voted a sum of money for such purpose: It is hereby enacted by the Governor of Ceylon, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:

1 This Ordinance may be cited for all purposes as "The Museum Ordinance, 1873."

2 This Ordinance shall come into operation on such day as shall be named by the Governor in a Proclamation to be by him for that purpose issued.

3 It shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, from such sums as shall be voted for such purpose by the Legislative Council, to establish a public museum in Colombo, to be called "The Colombo Museum," to be devoted to the illustration of the archæology, natural history, and products of Ceylon, and to the collection of a library of books of general information, and to appoint a curator, and to make such rules and regulations for the safety and use of the said museum, for the admission of visitors and others, for the payment of fees, and for such other matters in connection with the said museum as to them shall seem fit.

4 It shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, from such votes as aforesaid, to purchase books, medals, coins, specimens of natural history, and other objects for the use of the said museum, and, if need be, to allow them to be exchanged for other books and other objects of interest, or to direct such books and objects to be sold, and the money arising from such sales to be employed in the purchase of other books or objects that may be proper to the said museum.

5 The curator shall lay annually before the Governor, on or before the thirty-first day of March in each year, a general report of the condition and progress of the museum during the preceding year, together with a catalogue of the various objects acquired, and also an account of all moneys received and expended during the said period. Such report, catalogue, and account shall be annually published.

6 Should the branch of the Royal Asiatic Society established in Ceylon desire to transfer their collections and library to the said museum, such of the objects and books of the said society as shall be considered by the curator

Preamble.

Short title.

Commencement of Ordinance.

Governor to establish a museum.

To appoint a curator, and to make rules.

Power to purchase books, medals, coins, specimens, and to exchange them for others, and to sell them and appropriate proceeds for the purchase of other books or objects.

Curator to lay annually before the Governor proceedings of meetings, catalogue of objects, and account of moneys expended.

Asiatic Society may transfer their books and collections to the Museum.

Public Museum.

as proper to the museum may be transferred to the said museum.

Members of the society to have access to museum, and the use of a room for meetings, &c. Collections so transferred to be labelled and inventoried, but kept in charge of curator.

7 In case of the transfer of the collections and books of the said branch to the said museum, the members of the said branch shall have access to the museum on all days of the week within the hours which shall be fixed by by-laws, and they shall have the use of a room for the regular meetings of the branch. The collections and books transferred shall be labelled as belonging to the branch, and an inventory shall be kept of the same, but they shall be under the sole charge of the curator, and shall not be removed from the museum excepting in pursuance of the rules and regulations made for the museum as hereinbefore provided; and should the said branch be dissolved, the books and collections belonging to it shall be considered as appertaining to the museum. Provided that the curator shall, with the consent of the Governor, have power from time to time to remove such specimens as may no longer be required, in which case they shall be re-transferred to the branch.

Rules and regulations to be published in *Gazette*.

8 The rules and regulations made and fees established under section 3 shall be published in the *Government Gazette*, and, on such publication, they shall have the same force and effect as if they were embodied herein, and shall be binding upon and observed by all parties, and taken judicial notice of by courts, judges, and magistrates. Any breach of such rules and regulations shall subject the offender to a fine not exceeding fifty rupees.

Breaches of rules.

Fine for injuring any work of art, or object, or book, or other property of museum.

9 Any person damaging any work or object of art, or book, or other property appertaining to the said museum, shall be civilly liable to pay double the value of such work, object, book, or other property; and if the damage shall be shown to be wilful, he shall be further liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year, or to both.

17th September, 1873.