

London Dec 21st. 1844

To the Trustees of the British Museum

My Lords & Gentlemen

With reference to my recent letter to you address'd relative to my Zoological collections & researches, I have the honor to inform you that, my immediate return to India having just been decided on, I conceive it to be on many accounts most desirable that I should carry back with me my original Drawings as well as my Notes & Memoranda, leaving only my finished series of drawings together with the whole of my specimens in the possession of the Museum to be appropriated & distributed as already proposed.

2. Accordingly I now request that my first proposition to you, my Lords & Gentl^{men}, may be modified upon this plan because, in order to enable me on my return ^{to India} to resume & complete my Zoological researches with the greatest rapidity & effect I shall need the whole of my original drawings & Notes, while my departure is so near that no time is left for any further proceedings in conjunction with the proposed Nominee of the Museum than the transfer to him of the specimens; and, indeed, to ensure that transfer,

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being satisfactorily made it has become indispensable that not a moment be lost in the selection & despatch to Canterbury of the said ornaments.

3. I beg leave therefore to solicit an early decision upon this point; for, the specimens to be disposed of are exceedingly numerous & valuable & have been collected at a great cost that it is most desirable their disposal should be adjusted as far as possible before my departure.

4. Of the series of finished drawings which I propose to present to the Museum a considerable number have been lent to an Artist of the name of Howard who purposed their publication but has now desisted from that intention. I recommend that steps be immediately taken by the Museum to recover possession of these drawings which were lent to Mr Howard after they had been deposited in the Museum to which they are now presented by me, their sole & absolute owner.

5. The small portion of the series which is unfinished shall be transmitted by me from India as soon as may be, it being no longer possible to have them finished in London, as before suggested by me.

6. I return to India with the full purpose of effectively completing those

researches which my sudden departure
thence so sadly interrupted; and, in
order to their completion in the most
satisfactory manner, I beg leave
to suggest that some competent officer
of the Museum be placed in communica-
tion with me & be authorized & directed
to concert with me such uttmost operations
& to afford me such aid as shall seem
most calculated to give value to my
labours in India both past & prospective.

7. I have already named & classified the
Mammals & Birds which amount to
about one thousand species; but the naming
& classification having been performed
in India out of the reach of the Museum
& Libraries of Europe, these points need
correction with the aid of such appliances
and the specimens brought to Europe by me
will afford to my suggested cooperator
the ready means of making the required
correction which, had I remained in Europe
I could & would have made myself.

8. A corrected Catalogue of the whole
be immediately constructed; and, should
the species yet undescribed; and, next,
others should be summarily characterized
& published in order to prevent antici-
pation pending those further inquiries
into the habits & manners of the species
which it shall be my care to conduct
as fast as possible to completion in India.

but the making of which, with the inevitable delays of the voyage out, will necessarily occupy a good deal of time.

9. A copy of the corrected catalogue should be transmitted to me in India as soon as possible, together with suggestions as to ^{the projects} objects which require especial attention, as well as the best manner of conducting these alterations & inquiries.

10. Many such suggestions will readily occur to one furnished with the science & resources of Europe; and, if I be aided in this manner, I have no doubt that my local experience & opportunities will enable me to complete my researches to the satisfaction of you, my Lord & Gentls, & to the advantage of Zoological science.

11. I have already suggested the distribution of duplicate specimens; and, as I shall now have sailed for India so that distribution can be effected, I trust I shall not be thought to ask too much, if I express a hope that the Committee of the Museum may be directed to arrange & dispatch the several series of specimens to their respective destinations with catalogues subjoined, and in my name as the Collector, designator, & donor.

I have the honor to be

My Lord & Gentls

Your most obed. servant

B. H. Hodgson

12. I thought it be my intention I purport
with the above letter to confirm & renew
the tender of my drawings to the acceptance
of the British Museum, yet I trust they
will still be accepted with the reserve
which was mentioned in the prior
letter, it being my anxious wish
still to carry out, with the sanction &
support of the Trustees, the complete
original idea of an Illustrated Fauna
of Nepal & Tibet based on these draw-
ings; and I would accordingly be-
solicit the separate favour-
able consideration of the Trustees
for that eventual undertaking
which with the patronage of the British
Museum would be extensively
aided by subscriptions in India
where when my sudden departure
dislocated all my plans these
drawings had already attracted
general admiration & attracted
to their extraordinary zoological
accuracy & to the quantity

of collateral illustration of the habits
& manners as well as the structure
of species which they embrace
~~which during~~ ^{the progress of} but years of
continuous, skilful, toil could
have accumulated with the
aided by unique ^{irrevocable} ~~cases~~ opportunities.

Yours &c

W M Boswell
Late Minister at the
Court of Naples