

SIR THOMAS MUNRO – A BRILLIANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY

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Introduction

England had produced great managers. Thomas Munro was one of them. The life and work of Thomas Munro in India can be divided into four stages. The first, from 1780 to 1792, was military only, and during most of these twelve years he was in active service in the wars with Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan. England had produced great managers. Thomas Munro was one of them. They were trained in martial arts and management. While the English East India Company in India decided to expand its business and management, management services were used to further their commercial activities. The early life of Thomas Munro, one of the founders of English rule in India, is followed in this paper.

His Early Life

Thomas Munro was born in Glasgow on May 27, 1761. His father Alexander Munro was a prominent merchant in Glasgow and his mother was the sister of Dr. William Stark, a well-known Glasgow physician and physiotherapist of the day. He was the second child of a family of five sons and two daughters.¹ Like the children of a stable salesman, Thomas Munro, his four brothers and two sisters, at times, could not expect to be raised that way. of strong and gentle zeal that marked the erosion of the eighteenth-century Glasgow. But the last quarter of the eighteenth century was not an unusual time for those who traded in Virginia, especially if, like Alexander Munro, they were not among the 'aristocracy of Virginians' of Glasgow. Adequate resources to deal with trade disruptions that accompanied the American colonial uprising. Although Alexander Munro inherited his business from his father, Daniel, a second-generation citizen of Glasgow, the family factory was not large and not large enough to place the family in the 'Virgin Family' commercial family. The situation was theirs, and the means were in place for each of the seven Munro family members to expect the excellent education demanded by the big city dwellers from their children.²

His Services

In the second, 1792-1807, he was employed in public administration. From 1792 to 1799 in Baramahal, this was issued by Tipu Sultan. 1799-1800 in Canara and from 1800 to 1807 in the so-called Ceded regions, acquired by the treaty with Nizam in 1800. The third period, 1814-1818, after a period of six years in Europe, was abolished partly in public service and partly in military service. He was appointed by the Court of Directors in 1814 as the 'Chief Commissioner for the Madras' internal administrative review', for justice and finance, and between 1817 - 1818 he was in charge of the military unit Maratha war. The fourth period, after a brief visit to England in 1819, was his reign of Madras from June 8, 1820, until his death on July 6, 1827.³

A Wise Director

Thomas Munro was a brilliant governor of the Madras Presidency. He introduced various types of reforms to strengthen the position of the English East India Company in southern India. He favored the South Indians and the South Indians favored Munro for administrative positions. This chapter reviews his contributions to the people of South India. His ingenuity as well as that of a government official such as wisdom, intelligence, physical strength, morality, and virtue made him truly great. He engraved a place in the hearts of the people of South India. Therefore he was given the inscription "*Mandava Rishi*." ⁴

In the ceded districts where he worked as a chief collector, the children of commonality of the time were named after him as 'Munrolappa'. It is interesting to note that in Tirumala, the earthly abode of King Venkateswara, one of the food offerings to God was made daily in his name 'Munro Taligai'.⁵ Munro became governor of the Presidency of Madras in the 1820s. Once during a wandering he heard of the temple at Sri Venkateswara in Tirumala and began to offer a pongal each day to a god with a vessel known as Munro Gangalam. He distributed the proceeds from the village of Chittur to further this contribution. Temple authorities have ensured that the tradition is maintained. It was still a question of time before Munro became the subject of ballads and songs. According to Tamil scholar U.Ve.Swaminatha Iyer, the great composer 'composed a refrain song called Munro Sahib. It has disappeared from the collective memory.'⁶

Those close to Tirupati will confirm the latter because it was believed that Munro had a vision of the bangaru toranam, a gold crown made by Hanuman of Venkateswara and visible only to the innocent. A portrait of Munro on horseback, sans stirrup and saddle, their absence is still a mystery, was painted by Francis Chantrey and has since paused, looking at the city "with his back face and his eye" which according to Mountstuart Elphinstone compared and his excitement over those things which are usually ineffective but in the minds of young people. ⁷

The lot includes a few names like Jones, Coats, Molony, Fraser, Madeley and Anderson, all men who loved Madras and left lasting legacy in the form of infrastructure. English men in India these days enjoy greater opportunities for relaxation than English men of Munro's day enjoyed.⁸ today the harsh criticism that is often conveyed to the men in their native India, who do the work of their country, by the men with them holds an official position in India. Munro was a very ordinary man who served England and India equally and understood India better than many other expatriates.⁹ The people of Madras loved him more than they probably loved the best among their rulers. They affectionately call him "the Father of mankind".¹⁰

He was a real friend to the poor and downtrodden. He was remembered by the people of South India sixty or seven years after his tragic death. In 1891-92 a severe drought ravaged this part of the presidency and farmers who had complained gathered in Gooty to demand that the government reduce the land survey. At the end of the meeting, an old *ryot* stood up and said bitterly, "oh for Munro Sahib back again". At that point he had entered the minds of ordinary people. In short "he became a legend in his lifetime". Appropriately

the people of Chennai furthered his memory by erecting a statue of him on The Island of Chennai in 1839 by registration.¹¹

In a Gazetteer Extra-ordinary issued by the Indian government, the hat was paid in his memory. His sound and powerful understanding, his extraordinary talents, his tireless use, his vast knowledge, his achievements, as an oriental scholar, his deep knowledge of the customs and feelings of native soldiers and civilians in general, his patience, anger, location. Accessibility and fairness of the way would ensure that he was distinguished from any field of employment.¹² These qualities were amended to suit the tasks he was to perform in organizing resources and establishing peace in those provinces, where his latest spirit had been. Drawn, and where he has long been known as the "father of the people".¹³

At a public meeting in Madras to meet the demands of his memory, his death was described as a social catastrophe, and one of the speakers at the meeting said that his justice, kindness, openness, and hospitality were far more evident than his extraordinary mental faculties. A well-drained forest was planted near the spot where he died. The same fountain and lounge was built in Gooty. There for several years food was freely distributed to honor him, but his best memory was in the love of the people.¹⁴

Conclusion

Efficiency was not the limit. The emperor was entrusted with all authority and power, but the real offerings were personal. Thomas Munro has proven himself to be one of the leading figures in colonial history in southern India. It was difficult but impossible to do business honestly in parliament; but Thomas Munro was different in presenting himself as a gentle member of parliament.

End Notes

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4. Reddi, V.M. "*Munro in Ceded Districts*", Presidential address, South Indian History Congress, Madras, 1987, p.10.
5. Srinivasachari, *History of the city of Madras*, Madras 1989, p.56.
6. The Hindu, Sunday, July 25, 2010, Madras.
7. Raja Raman P. *Chennai through the ages*, Chennai, 1997, p.73.
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11. Raja Raman P. *Chennai through the ages*, Chennai, 1997, p.71
12. Major General Sir Thomas Munro, selection from his minutes and other official writings, Madras, 1886, TNAC, p. 243.
13. Muthiah, *Madras Discovered*, Madras, 1989, p.65.
14. Francis, Madras District Gazetteer 1904, Madras, TNAC, p. 456.