

Educational (1916) Department.

Misc. SERIES.

G.O. No. 472 - Eol

DATED 1-5-16

[Despatch Abstract.]

Gout Museum .. Requesting the Super.
Gout Museum — to arrange for the safe
 delivery of the Bhaktiprotu relic, now in the
Gout Museum to the Director General of
 Archaeology in India to be enshrined at one
 or other of the eight holy places of Buddhism
 or at the Vihara of the Buddhist Community
 at Calcutta —

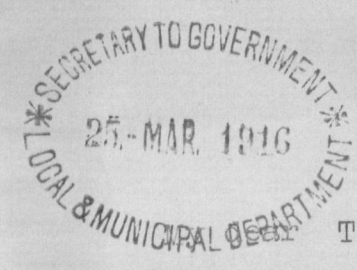
CN. 1194 of 27.3.16



"Somerford", 2

Adyar.

25th March 1916.



Todhunter,

pp 2-3 ufo

I send you a D.O. from Sir John Marshall on the subject of restoring to the Buddhist community the Bhattiprolu relic which is in the Madras Museum. Will you kindly send a copy to Henderson and ask him for his remarks thereon?

Yours sincerely,

A. G. Cardew.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. C.G. Todhunter, I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Local & Municipal Department,
Fort St. George.



Will Ed. kindly accept thanks?

25.3.16

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
ARCHAEOLOGY IN INDIA.

Camp Saraikala (Distt: Rawalpindi)

The 20th March 1916.

My dear Cardew,

We are considering the advisability of making a gift to the Buddhist community in India of various Buddhist relics in our museums and I write to enquire if the Madras Government would have any objection to parting with the Bhattiprolu relic which is in the Madras Museum.

I asked to see it when I was in Madras, and found it tucked away in a safe in (I think) an empty cigarette tin. Henderson told me that now-a-days it is never shown to anyone, and I imagine therefore that no special value is attached to it, and that the Madras Government would be quite glad for it to be restored to the Buddhists. Such relics, indeed, are devoid of interest from the museum point of view; and, moreover, for sentimental reasons ought not to be exhibited in a museum.

I have ascertained that Dr. Henderson himself is quite in favour of making over the Bhattiprolu relic to the Buddhists, but that he would like to keep the crystal reliquary in which it was found in the possession of the Museum. If the Madras Government agrees with his proposal, another suitable reliquary of gold or crystal can be made by us. But of course the Buddhists would appreciate more the old casket in which the bone of Buddha rested for two thousand years.

If you are agreeable to let the relic go back to the Buddhists, we shall make arrangements for it and the other relics that we are restoring to them, to be enshrined in a suitable

The Hon'ble Mr. A.G. Cardew, C.S.I., M.A.,
Member of Council,
Somerford - Adyar, Madras.

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suitable manner at one or other of the eight holy places of
Buddhism (Sarnath, Bodh-Gaya, Kasia, etc) or at the Vihara
of the Buddhist Community in Calcutta.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

John Marshall

Eg! Dept

A draft D.O. to Mr Henderson is submitted below for approval

AP
27.3.16
27.3.16

28/3/16

P.T.O

Ed. Dept.

C. no. 1194 Ed.

D.O. 1194-1 Ed.

29.3.16

Dear Henderson,

I am ~~pleased~~

to send you a copy of D.O. from
Sir John Marshall to the Honble
Mr Cardew No 647, of the 20th
March 1916, on the subject of
restoring to the Buddhist Commu-
nity the Bhaddipala relic which
is in the Madras Museum, and to
request you to offer your
remarks thereon.

Yours sincerely,

27.3.16

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13 April 1916

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Handwritten text in Tamil script.

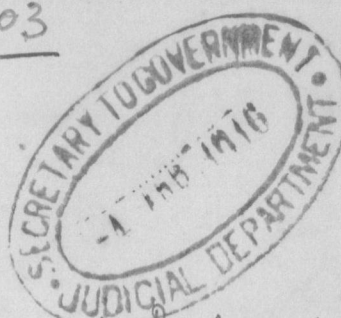
Handwritten text in Tamil script, likely a letter or official communication.

20

Handwritten signature and date in Tamil script.

No. 203

CN. 132908
4.4.16



GOVERNMENT MUSEUM,
MADRAS, 3rd April 1916.

Dear Mr. Rajagopala Acharian,

p-8 Supra

In reply to your D.O. No. 1194-1 of the 29th ult. I am entirely in favour of restoring to the Buddhist community the Bhattiprolu relic, which is supposed to be a fragment of bone from the body of the Buddha. It has been preserved here since 1892, and in my opinion it is not fitting that the relic should be exposed to public view in a Museum and the duty of safeguarding should be entrusted to Buddhists. I agree with Sir John Marshall that such relics "are devoid of interest from the museum point of view".

Sir John Marshall is incorrect in supposing that the relic is kept in an empty cigarette tin. It has never, since it first came under my care,

us

been preserved in anything else than the crystal reliquary in which it was originally found at Bhattiprolu and this reposes by itself in a drawer of a safe. Sir John must also have misunderstood me, for he states that I told him "that now-a-days it is never shown to any one". I informed him that it is rarely brought out of the safe and then only to show to a few of the more important visitors to the Museum. Instead of attaching no special value to the relic I have always regarded it as the most important object in the Museum.

If the Government decide to restore this relic to the Buddhist community and there is a strong feeling that it should permanently repose in its original reliquary I shall be prepared to waive the claim of the Museum to the latter.

Yours sincerely,

J. R. Henderson.

Sewan Bahadur D. Rajagopala Acharian, C.I.E.
Secretary to Govt. Educational Depart.

Ed. Dep.

Subject to orders, a draft order and a draft D.O. to Sir John Marshall are submitted below for approval.

CS
6.4.16
H. J. C. (P. C. C.)
M. J. C. 16

His Excellency agrees that the relic should be restored. The return of the reliquary however is not pressed & in view of the undertaking of the Director General to provide a suitable substitute His Excellency considers that it need not be presented.

(By order) H. J. C. 22.4.16.

Please send the draft order and letter

24/16

A revised draft

draft order and a draft D.O. are
submitted to you, a draft order and
a draft D.O. to Sir John Marshall are
submitted for approval.

CA
26.4.16

H. R. (P. L. L.)

27/4

28.4.16

J. P. W.
21.5.16

27.4.16

subject to order, a draft order and
a draft D.O. to Sir John Marshall are
submitted for approval.

27.4.16

the draft order and a draft D.O. are
submitted to you, a draft order and
a draft D.O. to Sir John Marshall are
submitted for approval.

Please note the draft order
and letter

10

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191 .

" " " " " 191 .

READ ALSO:-

G. No. 11945, From the No., dated 191
13 29 8d.

" " " " " 191 .

" " " " " 191 .

ORDER.

Mes.

No. 472 Edl. 1-5-16, dated 191 .

Spiff
Got 10

The Supdt., Govt. Museum, will be requested to arrange for the safe delivery of the Bhadrachal relia, now in the Govt. Museum, to the Director-General of Archaeology in India, who will make arrangements to enshrine it in a suitable manner at one or other of the eight holy places of Buddhism or at the Viharas of the Buddhist community in Calcutta.

2. The crystal reliquary in which the relia was originally found and in which it is still

To T. S. G. M. (Order only)

Still deposited, should ~~be~~ be retained in the Museum.

25.4.16

CA 26.4.16

to 1329.

D.O. 1329-1 E.H. 7/1-5-16

Dear Sir John,

With reference

to your D.O. to the Hon. Mr. Boardman, No. 647, d/ the 20th March 1916, I am directed to state that the Supdt. of the Museum, Madras, is being instructed to arrange for the safe delivery to your address of the Bhaktipala relic. ~~the~~ the crystal reliquary will be retained at the Museum.

Yours sincerely

To

Sir John Marshall, M.A., D.S.

Director Genl. of Archaeology in India

26.4.16

CA 26.4.16

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

A A A A A A A

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.