

Home (1918) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 643

DATED 20. 5. 18

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Antiquarian remains.

Recording papers relating to the preparation of
districtwar lists of ----- in the Madras Presidency.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No. _____

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (= S.O.)	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department.

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (= S.O.)	Initials with date of (1) Referencer acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to the department concerned.

Home Department,
(Education).

Memorandum. No. 858 B-1
29.4.18. ✓

It has been brought to the notice of Government that a large number of objects of archaeological interest which exist all over the Presidency ^{is} gradually disappearing or falling into decay for want of proper care being bestowed on them, and that very few people know where such objects are to be found. The first systematic cataloguing of antiquarian remains was done by Mr. Robert Sewell in his two volumes of "Antiquarian Remains in the Madras Presidency" so far back as 1882. Since then, a good many objects have been discovered, and the Government consider that if districtwar extracts brought up to date from Mr. Sewell's Antiquarian Remains were prepared and circulated to all district officers, divisional officers, tahsildars and revenue inspectors they would take more interest and there would be greater chance of the objects being looked after and preserved intact. Further, such a list would be the means of hitherto unrecorded remains coming to light and would be of incalculable service to persons in search of them.

The Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, is requested to examine the question and submit a report to Government at an early date.

E.A.V/18-4-18.

To the Supdt., Archaeological Survey.

1st reminder to issue on
1-6-1918.

24.4.18

29/4/18

2
HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.
Received 9-MAY-1918 191 . Registered 105 1918
Subject.

Concerning the preservation of Ancient Monuments in the
Madras Presidency.

ENCLOSURES
Nil
No.
Nil.
State copies

No. 302

Station Madras, Dated the 8th May 1918

From (Name) A. H. Longhurst, Esq.,

(Designation) Superintendent, Archaeological Survey
Southern Circle

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

HOME (EDUCATION) Department.

Sir,

Stonehouse Hill, Ootacamund.

As requested in Home (Education) Department Memorandum
No. 858 B-1, dated the 29th April 1918 concerning the preser-
vation of Ancient Monuments in this Presidency, I have the
honour to report as follows:-

(1) The statement that "a large number of objects of
archaeological interest which exist all over the Presidency
is gradually disappearing or falling into decay for want of
proper care being bestowed on them" is incorrect and I shall
be glad if the gentleman who made the statement will be good
enough to furnish this department with a list of such remains
as they are at present unknown to me.

(2) Sewell's List has already been revised and the outcome

of the revision is the "Standard List of Ancient Monuments in this Presidency", dated April 1917. As new monuments come to light they will be included in subsequent revised editions of this work. This list is already supplied to the Collectors and officers of the Public Works Department and Government Orders have already been issued requesting the subordinate district officials to co-operate with Government in the preservation of Ancient Monuments. Therefore I do not consider any further action is necessary at present.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. H. Longhurst.

Superintendent.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 423, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED 28TH MARCH 1918

[SUBJECT.—Prevention of wanton damage to ancient monuments.]

Previous papers :					
G.O.	754, Public,	2nd Sep. 1904	G.O.	505, Public,	11th June 1910
"	848 "	8th Nov. 1905	"	630 "	16th " 1911
"	17 "	18th Jan. 1906	"	Mis. 1277 "	13th Oct. 1913
"	211 "	19th Mar. "	"	360 "	21st Mar. 1914
"	438 "	10th June "	"	85, Home (Edn.),	19th Jan. 1917
"	516 "	12th July "			

From the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, No. 643, dated 17th November 1917.
HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The real point of Mr. Longhurst's suggestion to invoke the agency of the Police is to facilitate the detection of offences committed in respect of ancient monuments selected for conservation by Government. That the offences are punishable either under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904, if the monuments are declared 'protected' under the Act, or under the Penal Code, if the monuments happen to be Government property, has already been made known to the public by means of notice boards affixed to them—G.O. No. 630, Public, dated the 16th June 1911. (It is not possible for the Government to enforce any penal provision in respect of private monuments in the conservation list unless they are declared 'protected'.)

2. Instructions have also been issued to the effect that local officers of the Public Works and Revenue Departments should do everything in their power to prevent the destruction of or damage to such monuments. The duties of village officers in their regard are put in the following terms in chapter V of the Village Officers' Manual:—

"1. Village officers should see that no inscription slabs or ancient temples or other ancient buildings are destroyed by contractors and others for building purposes. (Section 32 of chapter V of the "Village Officer's Manual.") The managers and owners of such ancient remains should be asked to take care that no injury is done to them.

"2. It is the duty of village officers to see that all archaeologically valuable ancient monuments and remains are carefully preserved. They should duly intimate to the Tahsildars any intended demolition or defacement of ancient buildings, inscriptions or other antiquities in private possession which may come to their knowledge. No excavation of ancient sites or mounds should be permitted until the orders of Government have been obtained thereon."

Collectors have been requested to remind the village officers of their duties mentioned above [G.O. No. 85, Home (Education), dated 19th January 1917].

3. Evidently Mr. Longhurst wants to provide better safeguards than are ensured by the above arrangements. It is however very problematical whether much good can be expected by resorting to police aid as suggested by the Superintendent. For many of the monuments are in out-of-the-way places where Police Inspectors and constables have not frequent opportunities for patrol. If this watch over monuments is to be effectively attended to, it must be made part of the Police officers' duties which of course is impracticable.

NOTES TO G.O. No. 428, HOME (EDUCATION), 28TH MARCH 1918
 4. In the foregoing circumstances it is for consideration whether Mr. Longhurst may be told that the Government are unable to accept his proposal.
 G.A.—27-11-17.
 T.K.—28-11-17.

There seems to be no harm in providing additional safeguards for the proper preservation of monuments, etc. Public Works and Revenue subordinates have no doubt been already charged with the duty. Experience has shown that all that is needed has not been secured by this arrangement alone. Additional safeguards, if they could be arranged for, would be welcome. Police subordinates do go out on patrol duty to villages in outlying parts also. If during this patrol, they come across any monuments, which they know to be such, they may look round to see whether there is any defilement or damage has been done to it. This work is not likely to add much to the ordinary work of the Police. They will have only to bring the matter to the notice of their own officers or those of other departments. Before we consider the proposal further, we may send the file u.o. to Inspector-General to ascertain whether he has any objection to urge against the Superintendent's proposal.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—30-11-17.

I think that the proposal is impracticable and will lead to no appreciable result. It seems to be enough if the Revenue authorities impress on the village officers from time to time their duties in this matter.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—1-12-17.

A draft order is submitted. If approved it may issue after acceptance by Revenue.

G.A.—3-12-17.

T.K.—7-12-17.

C.R.—8-12-17.
 R.R.—10-12-17.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The draft may, if submitted, be accepted.

T.K.—13-12-17.

Accepted in Revenue.

G. H. JACKSON—13-12-17.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

For orders as to issue.

T.K.—14-12-17.

C.R.—16-12-17.
 R.R.—18-12-17.

First please ask Mr. Longhurst whether Government Order of 19th January 1917 meets his point? and suggest that he should always bring cases of such neglect, as that of which he complains, to the notice of the Collector concerned.

P[ENTLAND]—19-12-17.

A draft memorandum is submitted, with reference to His Excellency's orders supra. It may be noted that the Government Order at slip T—No. 85, Home (Education), dated the 19th January 1917, makes specific reference only to movable antiquities; whereas the damage referred to by Mr. Longhurst is being caused to immovable structures of archaeological interest and the fixtures forming part of such monuments which are preserved at Government expense.

The last sentence of the Government Order covers immovable structures also.

R.R.—28-12-17.

interest and the fixtures forming part of such monuments which are preserved at Government expense.

T.K.—21-12-17.

The latter portion of the Government Order is in general terms however. The draft memorandum may issue.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—25-12-17.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—28-12-17.

[Memorandum No. 1470 B-2, dated 29th December 1917.]

From the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, No. 45, dated 25th January 1918.

From Mr. Longhurst's letter it is obvious that he does not consider the orders in G.O. No. 85, Home (Education), dated the 19th January 1917, to be adequate for the purpose he has in view. The case may now be circulated to His Excellency with reference to his note on the previous page.

T.K.—30-1-18.

C.R.—31-1-18.

C.R.—1-2-18.

The letter does not explain how, when the Revenue Department including the village officers has already been instructed, advantage arises in issuing instructions to the Police—especially in these days of stations with extensive areas.

R.R.—2-2-18.

Under my instructions, the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor has kindly conferred with Mr. Longhurst, who agrees that instructions to the Police under present conditions on the lines which he had contemplated would not serve the purpose in view. Mr. Longhurst is concerned and anxious in regard to the increasing amount of damage which is evident as being done to public monuments, and to such things as notice-boards, railings, turnstiles. I suggest that it might be well to draw the attention of Collectors to this. It seems to me that the Secretary might well take an early opportunity of personally conferring with Mr. Longhurst in order to frame the proposed communication to Collectors.

P[ENTLAND]—6-3-18.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—7-3-18.

Submitted for orders whether Mr. Longhurst should be requested by telephone to call at the office and if so at what day and hour. It has been ascertained that Mr. Longhurst who returned from camp this morning will be in the station till the 12th instant, on which date he proposes to go on tour again.

C.R.—9-3-18.

C.R.—9-3-18.

"Please telephone: Reference your No. 643, dated 17th November 1917, about Police help in conservation of monuments. I wish to confer with you. When and where can I meet you?"

R.R.—12-3-18.

Telephonic message from A. H. LONGHURST, Esq., Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Southern Circle, Madras.

To—the Secretary to Government Home (Education) Department.

Dated—the 12th March 1918.

I have postponed my tour to Guntūr until to-morrow. I shall be glad to see you at any time to-morrow convenient to yourself at the Secretariat.

There is the Council tomorrow. As the Superintendent is going away to-morrow, it may probably be better if he goes over here to-day.

C.R.—12-3-18.

I can always spare him a few minutes. Please telephone-- : "Thanks for your message. Please come up to me. See any time to-morrow between 11-30 and 3."

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—12-3-18.

I saw Mr. Longhurst this morning as the Secretary was in Council. He has given up the Police idea altogether. What he wants to stop is the constant pilfering of such things as fence-wire, notice-boards, iron stay-band on monuments and the like. These are Government property and the local village munsif is responsible for them. The reason, however, why detection and punishment of this sort of offence has been so rare in the past is that the offences have never been promptly reported. As Mr. Longhurst admits, his own subordinates are mainly to blame for this and also the subordinates of the Public Works Department who are in many cases in charge of such things. Mr. Longhurst is to bring the point to the notice of his own subordinates. We may perhaps circularize Collectors again on rather fuller lines; and the file may then go to Public Works Department u.o. with the request that they will similarly circularize such of their men as are in charge of archaeological relics and their appurtenances, emphasising the necessity of instant information being given.

H. BROWN—13-3-18.

The draft already approved by the Secretary has been amplified with reference to the notes above and is submitted for approval. If approved, it may be sent to Public Works Department for acceptance.

B.A.—16-3-18.

C.R.—19-3-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—19-3-18.

I would have liked to have had a talk with Mr. Longhurst on a subject in which I am personally keenly interested, but when he called at the office I was in the Legislative Council and Mr. Hilton Brown saw him. I do not think, however, I could have advanced the discussion of the present subject further, had I seen Mr. Longhurst, and I therefore submit the draft order for approval.

I should like to say that the conservation of antiquarian remains is a subject which should interest, more than it does at present, the revenue officers of Government one or other of whom may be found touring on any given day in some part or another of a district. I am sure they would take more interest if they knew where to find these objects. We have Mr. Sewell's two volumes of *Antiquarian Remains in the Madras Presidency*, which are most informing so far as they go: but a good many objects have been discovered since those volumes were published. Mr. Longhurst's list is merely a list of monuments selected for conservation, i.e., for expenditure by Government; and in Nellore district, for instance, according to it (page 10), there are only five monuments; but the antiquarian objects of interest in a district are to be counted by hundreds and very few people knew where they are to be found. All of them do not cost money to look after; but without any one to care for them they are gradually passing out of view.

If districtwar lists of such objects were compiled and circulated to district officers, divisional officers, tahsildars and revenue inspectors there would be every chance of the objects being looked after and preserved intact. Such a list would also be the means of hitherto unrecorded remains coming to light.

Reading rooms are to be found in every town and many of the big villages in the Presidency. Extended notices of objects of interest in the locality, prepared by local enthusiasts, could be made available to the public at these reading rooms and

a person in search of antiquarian remains would know where to seek information. The co-operation of the public in the conservation of remains and the study of inscriptions could be secured in this way. I have always suggested this as a fit subject of study and discussion to reading rooms, but the great majority of them do not know where to obtain lists of objects in the district or locality which are deserving of study and investigation from an antiquarian point of view.

If it is thought worth while to republish districtwar extracts, brought up to date, from Mr. Sewell's *Antiquarian Remains*, the subject will be separately examined.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU—20-3-18.

I am to attach a revised draft which His Excellency considers more suitable.

His Excellency approves of the question of districtwar extracts being separately examined.

T. E. MOIR—27-3-18.

[G.O. No. 423, Home (Education), dated 28th March 1918.]

Home (Edn)
C No 858/B

G.O. No. 423 Edn, d/28th March 1918 has issued.

Home Dept.
(Edn)

2. With reference to A.S.'s orders above, the draft Memo below is subd. for appl.

18.4.18

24.4.18

May I see G.O. 423.

25/4/18

A copy of the G.O. is submitted - slip (w)

25.4.18

27.4.18

29/4/18

p. 1, c. 2

Memo 858/B-1, d/29.4.18.

le-1001/B, from the Supdt., Arch. Survey, 303, d/8.5.18

pp 243, c. 2

The question of distinctive lists of antiquarian remains was referred to

be examined at the instance of D. S. W.

vide notes
Supra.

Baradant L. D. Swamikannu Pillai.

of Mr. Langhams (in his current letter) and are solicited whether the matter should be

pursued further or whether the
papers may be recorded. For the
present alternative the Arch. Supdr.'s
current letter may have to be
forwarded D.O. to Dewan Bahadur
L. D. Sumanikarnu Pillai for further
remarks.

13.5.18

13.5.18

19.5.18

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May 20 1918

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