

Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 890, 5th July 1918

Inscriptions

Passing orders on the subject of the expeditious publication of the — copied by the Epigraphical Department and sanctioning the entertainment of certain temporary establishment for the purpose.

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Passing orders on the subject of the expeditious publication of the — copied by the Epigraphical Department and sanctioning the entertainment of certain temporary establishment for the purpose.

READ—the following papers :—

I

Memorandum No. 234/B-2, Home (Education), dated 20th February 1918.

The attention of the Assistant Archæological Superintendent for Epigraphy is drawn to Memorandum No. 435-1, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 12th September 1916, and he is requested to submit a clear report as to the progress since made in the publication of the epigraphical materials collected by the department.

(By order)

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR,
Registrar.

To the Assistant Archæological Superintendent for Epigraphy.

II

Letter—from M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib H. KRISHNA SASTRI Avargal, B.A., Assistant Archæological Superintendent for Epigraphy, Southern Circle.

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

Dated—the 22nd February 1918.

No.—94.

With reference to Government Memorandum No. 234/B-2, dated the 20th February 1918, I beg to submit that as stated on page 4 of my annual report for 1917, paragraph 3, the following progress has been made with regard to the publication of South-Indian Inscriptions :—

(1) Part V of volume II was issued.

(2) Part III of volume III consisting of 479 manuscript pages of texts, translations and introductions of 116 Tamil inscriptions was sent to the press in two batches on 5th December 1916 and 21st December 1917 but was returned by the Superintendent, Government Press, on 7th January 1918 for revision. The whole has been resubmitted on 19th February 1918 after careful revision together with materials for six facsimile plates.

(3) Of Part IV, volume III, taken up on hand, 100 pages of clean manuscript including the complete text and translation of the Sanskrit portion of the Tiruvalan-gadu plates have been made ready. About 50 pages more of the translation of the Tamil portion have yet to be revised and fair copied. The general index and introduction to volume III which also go into this part have to be commenced. All this could only be taken up after the Epigraphical Report for 1917-18 is dispatched to Government in July 1918. In all, the part may consist of 350 pages of manuscript.

(4) The Telugu volume (IV) of South Indian Inscriptions consisting of 115 Telugu inscriptions from Tripurantakam in the Kurnool district and a few copper-plates, is also progressing simultaneously. One hundred and twenty-five clean pages of manuscript are ready for press. Two hundred and fifty pages more remain to be checked, revised and fair copied and an introduction and index have also to be drawn up. This work too could be taken up only after July 1918.

(5) Other miscellaneous work turned out consists of the translation of the Velvikudi grant, to be issued with a subsequent volume of South-Indian Inscriptions; the publication in the *Epigraphia Indica* of a contribution on the Sendalai pillar inscriptions by Mr. K. V. Subrahmanya Ayyar; contribution of articles on the Dandapalle plates by Mr. G. V. Venkoba Rao and on the Penagaluru grant of Tirumala I by Mr. C. R. Krishnama Achari; and the publication of the Bezvada pillar inscription by myself in the Director-General's Archaeological Survey Report; and the arrangement made for about a dozen other contributions on South Indian inscriptions by outside scholars for publication in the *Epigraphia Indica*. These items of miscellaneous work, excepting the first, are herein included because they are also South-Indian Inscriptions. As they require immediate and fuller treatment they have been published in the *Epigraphia Indica* and the Director-General's Archaeological Survey Report.

2. This is the utmost that could be turned out with the present limited staff. The office, as at present constituted, leaves, either for me or for my staff, hardly any time to devote to publication during the six months from February to July, when all are engaged in some work or other connected with the preparation of the *annual report*. During the remaining six months, the three student epigraphists and one of the senior assistants will have to be on tour for about four months for collection work, thus leaving only two months for them to render any assistance to me in the matter of publication. Besides, I may have to make some special tour or other and be absent from headquarters for about a month or two. If, therefore, better speed in the publication of South-Indian Inscriptions is to be expected, I beg to submit that it is impossible to achieve the object without revising my staff on the lines suggested in my letter to Government No. 494, dated 30th September 1915. In consideration of the present financial position, however, I beg to submit the following modified scheme for the immediate consideration and sanction by Government:—

(i) The volumes of South-Indian Inscriptions, now issued only as matter gets ready, in the Archaeological Survey of India, New Imperial Series, must be converted into a quarterly journal of 50 pages of printed matter (i.e., 200 pages per year) and issued from this office under my editorship, provision being made for plates and payments to authors. This will give a fair incentive and opportunity to all scholars outside the department to contribute to the progress of South-Indian Epigraphy. Since the issue of G.O. No. 47, dated 9th January 1914, inviting assistance from honorary workers in the publication of inscriptions, no response has been hitherto made, evidently for want of the opportunity and incentive suggested above.

(ii) It is necessary that the entire responsibility of collecting and reporting will have to be assigned to one of the trained assistants of my office with the sanction of Government, while the publication work will be exclusively taken up by me and two other assistants who will either jointly or independently issue 300 pages of printed matter each year in the form of monographs, excluding their contribution to the journal of South-Indian Inscriptions mentioned in item (i).

(iii) These two publication assistants and the assistant in charge of collection and report have to be properly remunerated and their pay fixed at Rs. 250-10-300.

(iv) The staff of the publication section must be further equipped with one proof-reader on Rs. 50-5-75 and a pandit on Rs. 30-4-50. The collection section must have, as at present, the three sub-assistants or students of epigraphy with their pay fixed at Rs. 75-10-125, a photographer, a typist and a clerk.

III

Memorandum No. 234 B-4, Home (Education), dated 22nd April 1918.

With reference to his letter No. 94, dated the 22nd February 1918, the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy is requested to report whether, in case the establishment asked for therein is sanctioned, he would undertake to publish transcripts of inscriptions without any translation, abstract or notes (other than the name of the district and temple from which the inscription comes) and if so how many inscriptions he would be able to publish annually.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

IV

Letter—from M.R.Ry. G. VENKOBRA RAO Avargal, Acting Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy, Southern Circle.
To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.
Dated—the 6th May 1918.
No.—243.

With reference to Memorandum, Home (Education) department, No. 234 B-4, dated the 22nd April 1918, I beg to submit that in case the establishment asked for in my letter No. 94, dated the 22nd February 1918, is sanctioned it will be possible to publish the transcribed texts of about 2,000 inscriptions annually without any translations, abstracts or historical notes.

Order—No. 890, Home (Education), dated 5th July 1918.

The Government have for some time had under their consideration the question whether arrangements could not be made to make the epigraphical materials accumulated in the office of the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy more readily available to students and scholars. The editing of inscriptions furnished with a complete critical apparatus is a slow and costly business and the energies of the department have necessarily been largely devoted to searching for and securing copies of the numerous inscriptions in the Presidency before they disappear through accident or decay or as a result of the work of reconstruction and repair to which so many temples and other buildings are being subjected. As a result copies of many thousands of inscriptions now await editing and substantial additions are being made to the number every year. Further in view of the financial restrictions imposed by the war it has not been possible to bring into effect proposals for expediting progress in this branch of the work entrusted to the department. The Government hope however that if copies of inscriptions are made more generally accessible to the increasing number of scholars and students who are interested in South Indian antiquities and history it may be possible to enlist their co-operation in the work of translation and exegesis. With this object therefore and to obviate the risk of the impressions which at present form the sole record of these inscriptions being lost through fire or accident they have decided to make arrangements for the publication of transcripts of all inscriptions which have not yet been edited.

2. The Government accordingly sanction the employment for a period of two years of the undermentioned staff in the office of the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy:—

	RS.	
One Publication Assistant on	200	per mensem.
One proof reader	40	"
One pandit	30	"

The Assistant Archaeological Superintendent is requested to submit at an early date proposals for filling up the post of Assistant.

3. It is expected that by means of this establishment it will be possible to publish transcripts of at least 2,000 inscriptions annually. Six hundred copies of each inscription will be printed and the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy will submit a list of institutions and scholars to whom in his opinion copies may advantageously be supplied. The remaining copies will be kept in stock to meet further applications and the requirements of the department.

4. Orders will issue in the Financial Department in regard to the provision of funds.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy.
Copy to the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey.
" Superintendent, Government Press.
" Director General of Archaeology (with C.L.)
" Financial Department.
Editor's Table (Order only).

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 890, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED 5TH JULY 1918.

[SUBJECT.—*Publication of inscriptions copied by the Epigraphical Department.*]

Previous papers :					
G.O.	447, Financial,	16th July 1904	G.O.	785, Public,	7th July 1914
"	106 "	6th Feb. 1905	"	920 "	4th Aug. "
"	52, Public,	17th Jan. 1911	"	865 "	5th June 1915
"	568 "	13th May 1912	"	1260 "	25th Aug. "
"	980 "	13th Aug. "	"	225 "	9th Feb. 1916
"	863 "	12th July 1913	"	489 "	15th Mar. "
"	961 "	2nd Aug. "	"	1008 "	24th May "
"	734, Educational,	11th Aug. "	"	1121 "	10th June "
"	743, "	13th "	"	99, Home (Mis.),	29th Aug. "
"	1445, Public,	25th Nov. "	Endt.	435-1 "	12th Sep. "
"	1500 "	5th Dec. "	G.O.	1035, Home (Edn.),	10th Aug. 1917
"	47 "	9th Jan. 1914	"	763 "	12th June 1918

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that two copies of question No. 107 for the meeting of the Legislative Council to be held on the 12th February 1918 may be forwarded to the Home (Miscellaneous) Department with reference to Nos. (1) and (4) of the rules regulating Secretariat procedure in dealing with these questions in the Legislative Council. Orders regarding admission will be communicated in due course.

V. T. KRISHNAMA ACHARI—1-2-18.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

To Home (Education) Department u.o.

A.V.S.—2-2-18.

P.D.R.—2-2-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—2-2-18.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF RAMNAD :—

Q. 107.—Will the Government be pleased to undertake the publication of manuscripts and copper plates remaining with the Archæological department yet unpublished at an early date?

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The slow pace at which the publication of inscriptions and copper plates discovered by the Epigraphical Department has been proceeding, has been under the close scrutiny of Government for some time past. The matter was thoroughly investigated and certain definite instructions were issued in G.O. No. 47, Public, dated the 9th January 1914; and based on such instructions the Assistant

Archæological Superintendent for Epigraphy furnished in his annual report for 1913-14 some idea of the programme of publication * before him (vide paragraph 3 of G.O. No. 920, Public, dated 4th August 1914). The progress made since with reference to the above programme has not been very encouraging and year after year, in reviewing the annual report the Government have been urging on the Assistant Archæological Superintendent the importance of a vigorous campaign of publishing the materials collected by the department (paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 1260, Public, dated 25th August 1915). Since the issue of orders of 1914 the only work that has actually been published is Part V of Volume II of the South Indian Inscriptions but subsequent volumes are in progress—paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 99, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 29th August 1916, and paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 1035, Home (Education), dated 10th August 1917.

2. The following draft answer is submitted :—

Answer.—“A definite programme in regard to the publication of inscriptions is given in paragraph 3 of the Annual Report on Epigraphy for 1913-14, placed on the Editors' Table. The Assistant Archæological Superintendent has been asked to push on the work as vigorously as possible”—(vide page 3 of G.O. No. 920, Public, dated 4th August 1914).

E.A.V.—4-2-18.

C.R.—4-2-18.

What is given in the report for 1913-14 is not much of a ‘programme.’ A reference to it may not be of use. We may probably refer the Additional Member to G.O. No. 47, Public, dated 9th January 1914, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. This shows how keen the Government are on the point. The subsequent progress in the publication is noted in the annual reports. The careful selection, editing, translation and publication of the inscriptions with facsimiles as laid down in the order will take some time.

It has been recognized that the entire publication of the inscriptions left over at the Madras office will be almost an impossibility under existing conditions and with the present staff and management. The Government of India have proposed the appointment of a Government Epigraphist for India and a scheme, under which that officer was to be provided with a staff of assistants for the purpose of publishing epigraphical material. This was specially designed to meet cases like that of Madras where nearly 10,000 inscriptions await publication. This Government, though they first demurred to the scheme, have eventually accepted it as the only means of satisfactorily disposing of the large accumulations of Madras (please see the notes with G.O. No. 225, Public, dated 9th February 1916). The scheme is now held in abeyance owing to financial stringency (cf. India's letter recorded in G.O. No. 489, Public, dated 15th March 1916). We cannot however refer to this correspondence in the present reply, except perhaps in a general way.

The following draft is for approval :—

“The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to G.O. No. 47, Public, dated the 9th January 1914, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. The work of publication of the inscriptions is being pushed on consistently with the other work of the department. A comprehensive scheme for the systematic and expeditious publication of all epigraphical collections is under contemplation, but its further consideration awaits the return of normal financial conditions.”

After issue of the draft to Legislative we may call for a progress report from the Assistant Archæological Superintendent.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—5-2-18.

Draft answer for approval.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—5-2-18.

P[ENTLAND]—5-2-18.

With reference to the orders above, a draft memorandum is submitted for approval.

E.A.V.—16-2-18.

C.R.—18-2-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—19-2-18.

[Memorandum No. 234/B-2, dated 20th February 1918].

The following is the final form of the question and answer :—

Q. 107.—Will the Government be pleased to undertake the publication of manuscripts and copper plates remaining with the Archæological Department yet unpublished at an early date?

A. 107.—The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to G.O. No. 47, Public, dated the 9th January 1914, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. The work of publication of the inscriptions is being pushed on consistently with the other work of the department. A comprehensive scheme for the systematic and expeditious publication of all epigraphical collections is under contemplation, but its further consideration awaits the return of normal financial conditions.

*From the Assistant Archæological Superintendent for Epigraphy,
dated 22nd February 1918, No. 94.*

Please see the progress report submitted by Mr. Krishna Sastri. Mr. Sastri takes this opportunity to commend for immediate consideration and sanction a scheme which is less ambitious than the one suggested in paragraph 7 of his letter No. 494, dated the 30th September 1915, for accelerating (pages 5 and 6 of G.O. No. 225, Public, dated 9th February 1916) the progress of publication work. The chief features of the scheme are—

(i) the conversion of the “South Indian Inscriptions” volumes of which are now spasmodically issued into a quarterly journal of fifty pages to be issued under the editorship of Mr. Krishna Sastri.

(ii) the drawing of a clear line between the work of collection and reporting on the one hand and of publication on the other, the responsibility for the former being exclusively assigned to one of the Assistants in the Epigraphist's office with the marginally-noted* staff and the latter

* The three epigraphical students on Rs. 75 per mensem and the existing photographer, clerk and typist. work being in the sole charge of Mr. Sastri aided by two publication Assistants, a proof-reader and a pandit.

(iii) the fixing of the pay of the above Assistants at Rs. 250—10—300 per mensem each.

2. The above† proposals involve—

(i) the creation of three new appointments :—

	Per mensem.
RS.	
Publication Assistant on	250—10—300
Proof reader	50—5—75
Pandit	30—4—50

(ii) the raising of the pay of the two existing Assistants from Rs. 150—10—200 and Rs. 150—10—250 respectively to Rs. 250—10—300 each and slightly varying the present scale of pay of the three epigraphical students.

3. It may be observed that when an almost similar proposal was brought forward by Mr. Krishna Sastri in connexion with the Government of India's proposal for the appointment of a central epigraphist with an adequate staff of publication assistants, the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew observed as follows :—

“... It is perfectly clear that Mr. Krishna Sastri will never be able to publish a thousandth part of the inscriptions which are already in arrears and even if he had three assistants, it is doubtful whether any real progress would be made because Mr. Krishna Sastri himself possesses little or no power of driving” (page 4 of notes to G.O. Nos. 225-26, Public, dated 9th February 1916). “I accordingly think that we should now accept the Government of India's proposals.”

The Government of India have since postponed their scheme pending return of the normal financial situation and it will probably take a long time before they revive it (G.O. No. 489, Public, dated 15th March 1916). In the meanwhile epigraphical materials are fast accumulating adding to the already heavy arrears awaiting publication. It is therefore for orders whether a beginning may not be made by accepting Mr. Sastri's present proposals. It may also be mentioned that India's scheme even if it should come into fruition is not intended in any way to interfere with the work of publication in this Presidency. (Cf. paragraph 3 of India's letter at page 2 of G.O. No. 225, Public, dated 9th February 1916).

E.A.V.—2-3-18.

C.R.—6-3-18.

It will be highly useful if anything could be done to expedite the publication work of the Epigraphist office. The proposal to convert the "South Indian Inscriptions" into a quarterly journal, though it may conduce to systematize the publication work, need not at present be considered. There is the likelihood of the main object being gradually lost sight of and other matters slowly creeping into the journal entailing the diversion of the time and energy of the staff. Further with the Government of India's scheme before us, we cannot well start the *journal*, the continuation of which after the introduction of the scheme will be doubtful. Without the *announcement* that it will be a regularly issuing journal, it may be issued regularly every quarter.

The question of increasing the pay of the existing assistants may also stand over. There is no urgency about the matter.

As regards the *additional* hands, the proposal seems modest as far as the number is concerned. An officer in separate charge of publication work is a necessity; and a proof-reader and a pandit may also be sanctioned. The establishment may for the present be temporary for two years. The question of its retention may be considered about the close of that period when we may have experience of work done by the staff, and when the time for the introduction of the Government of India's scheme may have come. The pay of the post may be fixed at Rs. 200. The existing assistants draw Rs. 150—10—200 and Rs. 150—10—250. That India's scheme will eventually take up this work need not, it is submitted, stand in the way of our doing the little that is possible to push on the work immediately.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—6-3-18.

* Resolution moved at the Legislative Council meeting of the 14th March 1918 since recorded in G.O. 763, Home (Education), 12th June 1918.

Please resubmit on return of linked * file.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—7-3-18.

To lie over till the Legislative meeting is over.

R.R.—9-3-18.

Demi-official—from Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO Avargal.

To—the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI, Acting Secretary to Government, Home (Judicial) Department.

Dated—the 18th March 1918.

ABSTRACT.—Enclosing a communication from M.R.Ry. T. A. Gopinatha Rao, dated 15th March 1918, regarding publication of epigraphical materials.

The Council meeting being over, the file is resubmitted with reference to Secretary's order above. From the newspaper Cutting from *Madras Mail*, 14th March 1918. report of the proceedings it would appear that the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew who spoke on behalf of the Government, though in sympathy with the object aimed at, did not accept the resolution as it stood; the resolution was however not passed: and it seems to be the intention to do something to accelerate the progress of publication work.

2. A demi-official communication from Mr. T. A. Gopinatha Rao of Travancore on the subject has been since received and added to the file. It will be observed that Mr. Gopinatha Rao is very keen about doing something to carry forward the work of publishing epigraphical materials. For this purpose he is prepared to take a year's furlough; his request is that he may be put on honorary special duty in the Madras Epigraphist's office while on leave and that he may be allowed an establishment consisting of a publication assistant, a clerk and a typist. If this arrangement is made possible he says he can publish between 2,000 to 2,500 inscriptions in the course of a year.

It may be observed that even if the Madras Government are prepared to employ him in the manner proposed, he has to get the permission of the Travancore Darbar, under whom he is now working, to take up the honorary work. Mr. Gopinatha Rao himself anticipates that the Darbar may not easily give its permission. He recalls a similar refusal on the part of the Darbar when the question of putting him on special duty in connexion with the publication of certain Silpa sastras was put before the Darbar on a previous occasion—please see the correspondence since recorded in G.O. No. 806, Home (Education), dated 21st June 1918.

E.A.V.—20-3-18.

C.R.—20-3-18.

There are now two sets of proposals for orders, one submitted by the Assistant Archæological Superintendent and the other by Mr. Gopinatha Rao, Archæologist of Travancore. Both assume that the existing establishment cannot cope with the

publication work if the latter is to be done in any satisfactory way. Both of them are more or less similar, except that one substitutes Mr. Gopinatha Rao as the sole officer for the publication work

in place of the Assistant Archæological Superintendent. The Secretary (Mr. Ramachandra Rao) suggests that in case we accept Mr. Gopinatha Rao's scheme, we might apply for his services and that he may be paid a remuneration, his services being taken on loan. It is not unlikely that the Travancore Darbar may grant a loan of the officer's services to this Government. Mr. Gopinatha Rao's present pay

in Travancore is Rs. 250 per mensem. So he is to gain in pay at once, besides supplanting Mr. Krishna Sastri in the latter's legitimate function of publishing inscriptions.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

Rao) than that proposed by the Assistant Superintendent, who also asks for a publication assistant, a proof reader and a pandit. We may in the former case economise by paying the assistant only Rs. 150, as Mr. Gopinath Rao will himself be a full-time publication assistant. According to the Epigraphist's proposal, a total additional sum of Rs. 310 (Rs. 200 plus 65 plus 45) per mensem will be needed; while in respect of Mr. Gopinatha Rao's suggestion a total sum of Rs. 530 (Rs. 300

plus 150 plus 50 plus 30) per mensem may be necessary. We may consider also the question of sparing one or two members of the existing establishment of the Epigraphist's office for the publication special duty. A reference to that officer may be necessary which may be done after the scheme is generally approved.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

Why not before it is approved of? Is it customary to supersede the head of a department on the strength of private and confidential attacks without first giving him a hearing?

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

The offer of Mr. Gopinatha Rao gives us the prospect of a larger outturn. The Assistant Archæological Superintendent promises the publication of 500 pages of printed matter a year; and calculating with reference to the publications already issued, some 200 inscriptions will be published every year, while Mr. Gopinatha Rao promises to publish between 2,000 to 2,500 inscriptions. The editing of the inscriptions thus published will no doubt be less elaborate than that

done by the Epigraphist's office at present. Mr. Gopinatha Rao proposes to give the text and only an abstract of its contents with a note as to the description and position of the original, a plan which more or less conforms to that of Dr. Hultzsch. Though not of the elaborate type of the South Indian inscriptions the abstract will do for scholars to work upon; and if later on full translations with notes are found necessary such a work may be undertaken; and this may be a work for the Imperial Research Institute at Delhi. The department would in the meanwhile secure the benefit of having the texts printed and made available to the public.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—21-3-18.

I believe Mr. Gopinatha Rao is the only person at present who has the experience requisite for undertaking the publication of inscriptions on a large scale. I have

Would not "advertizer"! perhaps that will be the more suitable word?

A. G. O[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

always thought that given an organizer like Gopinatha Rao, a large band of workers may be forthcoming who may have to be paid at most only for the work actually turned out and who will help to expedite it. There are hundreds of people in the Presidency who, whether as students of Tamil or Telugu or as students of history would like to look at the inscriptions, but the latter never seem to see the light of day. Some help in the way of translation of the inscriptions or of the important passages in them would be necessary as the orthography, the vocabulary and the grammar of the inscriptions would not always be obvious to scholars. An inscription of one of the earlier Cholas or Pandyas bears the same relation to modern classical Tamil that the *Carmen Saliare* does to Augustan Latin.

I would above all postulate in the organizer of the work a certain amount, I would say a large amount, of liberality, in welcoming and encouraging the co-operation of younger men. No doubt the possession of expert knowledge does not come to the expert except after years of patient work, but epigraphy is not a craft from which all but those who have served a costly apprenticeship need be excluded. I am afraid men like Mr. Krishna Sastri, besides being themselves somewhat inert, discourage and repel amateurs. The arrears of inscriptions have attained such proportions that they cannot possibly be cleared off within a reasonable time or at a reasonable expenditure unless every available means of securing despatch is employed. There seems to be a large number of young men who are eager to do work of this kind; but they have to be organized.

If Government are agreeable to asking for a loan of Gopinatha Rao's services for this purpose, the Resident in Travancore and Cochin will have to be addressed.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU—22-3-18.

This is a matter in regard to which Mr. Swamikannu Pillai can speak with authority and his opinion appears to be in favour of employing Mr. Gopinatha Rao. Nevertheless the more I examine the correspondence, the less favourable the result seems to me to be to this gentleman.

*Extract from M.R.Ry. T. A. Gopinatha Rao's demi-official—

"What I thought of was to take a year's furlough to show the possibility of editing 2,000 or more inscriptions a year and thus convince the Madras Government that its officer may also be made to do his work at that rate after my demonstrations. . . I can easily demonstrate the possibility of editing 2,000 to 2,500 inscriptions a year. . ."

worker worked only 300 days of 10 hours each, which is as much as is probable on work of this nature, it allows a little over one hour for each inscription. Many inscriptions are of considerable length; to make an accurate transcript must take time; and the work of making an accurate abstract in English of each inscription is not a light one. On the whole I am inclined to believe that Mr. Gopinatha Rao's boasts on this point are simply impossible of performance; and if this is so, we must draw the inference either that he does not know what he is talking about or that he is wilfully trying to mislead us.

2. I would refer first to Mr. Gopinatha Rao's declaration * that he could 'easily' undertake to publish 2,000 to 2,500 inscriptions per annum accompanied by an abstract translation, etc. Now if we assume that there would be available in the year 350 working days of 14 hours each, this claim would allow under two hours per inscription. If, however, the

3. I do not particularly admire Mr. Krishna Sastri, who is a slow, plodding

*Extract of Jouveau-Dubreuil's letter to Mr. Gopinatha Rao reproduced from the latter's demi-official.

"It is certainly not possible for me to vie with Rao Sahib H. Krishna Sastri who has been able to spend Rs. 40,000 in enriching his report on Epigraphy for 1917 with the most brilliant discoveries."

man, but I think we should be on our guard against unfair and interested attacks on him and it appears to me that in several respects Mr. Gopinatha Rao's attacks are quite unfair. Thus, Mr. Gopinatha Rao writing to Mr. Ramachandra Rao on 15th March quotes* M. Jouveau-Dubreuil as saying that Mr. Krishna Sastri spent Rs. 40,000 on his report for epigraphy for 1917. Now the budget estimates show that the total cost of the Government Epigraphist's whole department in 1916-17 was Rs. 20,970, this covering not merely Mr. Krishna Sastri's own salary of Rs. 300-25-500 per mensem, but the salaries of his assistants, clerks, peons, travelling allowance, contingencies, rent, rates and taxes. Thus it appears that M. Jouveau-Dubreuil has not only doubled the sum which Mr. Krishna Sastri's budget estimates amount to but that he writes as though the whole cost of the department were devoted to the work of publication whereas quite half the expenditure is spent on collecting and copying fresh inscriptions, on which work all Mr. Krishna Sastri's assistants are employed the whole touring season. A great part of Mr. Krishna Sastri's own time is moreover taken up by work for Sir John Marshall's annual volume, work which he can hardly refuse to do. Mr. Gopinatha Rao must know all this, or ought to have informed himself of all this, before he included in his private letter to Mr. Ramachandra Rao this quotation from M. Jouveau-Dubreuil.

4. In his letter to Mr. Ramachandra Rao, Mr. Gopinatha Rao declares that the report of the Government Epigraphist "generally contains a large number of errors" and he speaks of "blunders" committed "by the whole generation" of

Madras Epigraphists and sends up a pamphlet on the Pallavas by M. Jouveau-Dubreuil to prove this. I have only had time to glance through this but as far as I can see, though the French severely criticizes Mr. Hultzsch (an Austrian) and to less extent the late Mr. Venkayya, Mr. Krishna Sastri comes off scatheless. It hardly seems to me to be quite fair play to send up this article which attacks Mr. Krishna Sastri's predecessors' conclusions and then use it against Mr. Krishna Sastri himself. The pamphlet shows moreover that these scholars permit themselves a rather dogmatic tone in their discussions; that they don't love one another; and that M. Jouveau-Dubreuil's views have happened to coincide with those of Mr. Gopinatha Rao.

5. It appears that Mr. Gopinatha Rao has written to Mr. Robert Sewell complaints that the Government Epigraphist refuses inspection of the squeezes in his office. I should like some evidence that this complaint is true. Mr. Krishna Sastri seems to me to be a very amiable man whose foible is rather to refuse nothing to any one rather than to adopt a "dog in the manger" attitude. Mr. Sewell asks Mr. Gopinatha Rao "Why do you not write officially to Sir John Marshall?" and we may repeat the question. We ought to have proof of the allegation that Mr. Krishna Sastri has refused access to the inscriptions in his office before we attach any credence to it.

Of. pages recorded in G.O. 1, Home (Education), 3rd January 1917.

† Extract from Mr. Gopinatha Rao's demi-official.

"Many other people have complained similarly against the 'dog in the manger' policy of the Madras Epigraphist."

6. Mr. Gopinatha Rao in his memorandum attacks what he calls Mr. Krishna

* Extract from Mr. Gopinatha Rao's memorandum:—

"It has to be mentioned in this connexion that lengthy annual reports have since 1904 been issued by the Madras Epigraphist and essays on the contents of inscriptions given in part 2 of the report."

Sastri's "essays" on the contents of inscriptions. These so-called "essays" are actually abstracts of the more important inscriptions. I do not think such abstracts are altogether a good way of publishing the inscription but at least it should not be misrepresented and I should like proof that Drs. Fleet, Hultzsch, etc., have pronounced them untrust-

worthy. Moreover Mr. Gopinatha Rao proposes to follow a very similar method himself, i.e., to publish with the text not a full translation but an abstract. If, as he says, this method involves "the personal equation of the Epigraphist" when Mr. Krishna Sastri uses it a similar criticism will apply when Mr. Gopinatha Rao uses it. It is true that the text is to accompany the abstract in the latter case, but I am inclined to doubt the soundness of the principle altogether. It is probable that to make an accurate abstract takes nearly as long as to make a translation, and I should prefer the latter.

7. Altogether Mr. Gopinatha Rao's attitude in these letters, etc., does not inspire me with confidence. He is admittedly on bad terms with the Diwan of Travancore and he obviously wants to get away from the State. To accomplish this, he has made an embittered attack on Mr. Krishna Sastri in a private letter beginning "my dear cousin" supported by what I believe to be untruths and boasts of what he could "easily" do himself if he were allowed to try. On the whole, I cannot support Mr. Swamikannu Pillai's proposal that we should ask for Mr. Gopinatha Rao's services until further inquiries have been made and unless they prove to be thoroughly satisfactory.

8. I am aware of the need for hastening the work of publication and I have urged this view for some years past, but the question of the methods to be followed has not yet been cleared up. My personal feeling is in favour of publishing the texts (transcripts, not facsimiles) † without any pretence of a translation. My reasons are (1) that our object is merely to put the texts safely on record and to render them accessible to scholars. It is for qualified students to translate and annotate. Mr. Swamikannu Pillai suggests that the text "will not be always obvious to scholars." But I am inclined to think that it is for scholars to qualify themselves to read the texts they want to study. We are not going to publish for the benefit of "the man in the street." (2) If we attempt a translation, we must make it thorough and accurate; mere abstracts must be liable to mislead those who rely on them as the words or sentences omitted may be of vital importance. Perusal of the pamphlet on the Pallavas shows how much may turn on a few words in an inscription. On the other hand a thorough and accurate translation mean prolonged time and labour and will bring us back eventually to Mr. Krishna Sastri's position, i.e., to careful but extremely slow publication. This seems to me to be the main issue, viz., whether to publish texts without translation, with an abstract translation, or with a full translation, and I would first refer it to Sir John Marshall for his opinion.

† Facsimiles would be probably preferable but would be enormously expensive.

9. The second question is as to Mr. Gopinatha Rao's fitness to assist in whatever work is to be done. I don't like the attempt to discredit Mr. Krishna Sastri in order to take his place but of course Mr. Gopinatha Rao may still be a competent man. On this too, Sir John Marshall's opinion would be valuable. Possibly it would not yet be too late in the season to get him to come down and discuss the whole subject, here or at Ootacamund. He certainly owes us a visit.

10. Thirdly Mr. Krishna Sastri's progress is lamentably slow but he has put forward in the current file a definite scheme for advancing more rapidly. We might consult Sir John Marshall on that also. At present I should prefer that scheme to Mr. Gopinatha Rao's intervention.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

It has seemed to me for some time to be desirable, and indeed almost essential to our credit in this department to hasten the work of publication. I am not personally impressed by Mr. Gopinatha Rao's methods in these recent proceedings, and there appears to be no reason whatever to discredit Mr. Krishna Sastri in any way. What his powers of organizing a substantial advance in work are likely to be, I am unable to judge. I agree generally with Sir Alexander Cardew, and it would I think be well at this point as he suggests to consult Sir John Marshall.

P[ENTLAND]—23-3-18.

Draft please.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU—30-3-18.

Telephonic message.—from the Clerk to the Hon'ble Sir ALEXANDER CARDEW, K.C.S.I., Member of Council.
To—the Registrar, Home (Education) Department.
Dated—the 9th April 1918.

The Honourable Member wants the file on the subject of the publication of inscriptions in which he wrote a note about a week ago. If the reference to Sir John Marshall has not yet been despatched he wants it to be held back as he wants to note further on the file. Please send the file as soon as possible.

Submitted that the file may be sent to the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew, K.C.S.I.
T.K.—9-4-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—9-4-18.

* Not printed.

Submitted to Honourable Member.
I have not either read or passed the draft
* from orders.

L.D.S.—9-4-18.

Since I noted on the subject on the 25th of March, I accidentally learnt in conversation with Mr. Swamikannu Pillai that in every case transcripts of inscriptions are already in existence in the Epigraphist's office. In order to verify this and to see what the actual position in regard to these transcripts was, I paid a visit to the office on the 8th instant and had an interview with Mr. Venkoba Rao, Officiating Epigraphist, saw a number of transcripts and consulted him as to what could be done. Mr. Venkoba Rao's opinion was that it would be necessary to compare the transcript of each inscription with the original before it was published and he thought that, if the staff asked for by Mr. Krishna Sastri were given, there would be no difficulty in publishing quite a large number of inscriptions up to perhaps 2,000 a year without interfering with the existing operations of the department. The essential point would be that no attempt would be made to annotate, translate or give an abstract of the inscription. As soon as you commence to translate or abstract or note, you accept responsibility which must involve lengthy examination and consequent delay and it seems to be really clear that there is no choice between the publication of the transcripts entirely unaided by any kind of apparatus criticus and the publication of fully annotated publications in the manner in which Mr. Krishna Sastri is pursuing. The objection to the publication of the transcripts alone seems to be that European scholars will not be able to understand them. That seems to be purely imaginary, and even if it were true, it seems to me that the European scholars in question must be left to qualify themselves by learning the languages in which the inscriptions are written. Mr. Venkoba Rao informed me that the Tamil, Kanarese or other language in which these inscriptions are written, even as far back as the eighth and ninth centuries which were some of the oldest in the collection, is not more archaic than the language of Chaucer. If this is true, I think we may well publish mere texts and leave the learned world to make what use of the texts they choose.

2. I think that it would save time now to send a reference to the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy and ask him whether he is prepared to undertake to publish transcripts of inscriptions without any translation or abstract or notes (other than the name of the district and temple from which the inscription

comes) if the establishment asked for by Mr. Krishna Sastri is sanctioned and if so how many inscriptions he thinks could be seen through the press in a year. This is a mere *ad interim* reference and need not delay progress of the file.

3. As regards the demi-official to Sir John Marshall, I think it might be worded as follows :—

Demi-official—from the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO Avargal, Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.
To—Sir JOHN MARSHALL, Kt., C.I.E., Director-General of Archaeology in India.
Dated—the 15th April 1918.
No.—234 B-3.

As you are aware, the Government of Madras have been considering for some time how to expedite the publication of inscriptions copied by the Madras Assistant Superintendent for Epigraphy. They are much impressed by the necessity for placing these invaluable records beyond the reach of destruction by putting them in print. In many cases the inscriptions themselves have disappeared since the squeezes were taken owing to the repairing energy of recent times so that the squeezes and the transcripts from them which now exist in manuscript in the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent's office are the only record of these historical documents. It is obvious that the destruction of these records by fire would be an irreparable calamity, as it would destroy a large part of the historical records that have been collected during the last thirty years. The Government are therefore disposed to think that even though the mere publication of the transcripts without notes, translation or other apparatus criticus may not be absolutely the ideal method, still in order to place the inscriptions in safety, it is essential to adopt that plan. They believe that, if that plan were adopted, a large number of inscriptions could be printed annually. I am to ask whether you see in the circumstances any serious objection to the immediate adoption of this plan.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—10-4-18.

His Excellency for perusal.

After issue of the above demi-official, the reference to the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent will issue.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—10-4-18.

P[ENTLAND]—11-4-18.

Issue the demi-official and draft reference to the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—13-4-18.

A draft memorandum to the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy is submitted.

E.A.V.—18-4-18.

T.K.—18-4-18.

C.R.—20-4-18.

R.R.—22-4-18.

[Memorandum No. 234 B.-4, dated 22nd April 1918.]

From the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy, No. 243, dated 6th May 1918.

The Acting Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy reports that, in case the establishment asked for by him is sanctioned, it will be possible to publish the transcribed texts of about 2,000 inscriptions annually without translations, abstracts or historical notes. The establishment proposals are dealt with in this department at pages 3 to 4 ante. (The proposals themselves are at pages 1 and 2 of the correspondence.) It would appear that the question of requisitioning for the services of Mr. Gopinatha Rao of Travancore has been definitely decided in the negative—vide last sentence in Sir Alexandar Cardew's note at page 8 ante.

[The enclosures connected with his letter have not yet been returned. May they now be returned with a demi-official]—(pamphlet about the Pallavas and memorandum).

2. The file may now be forwarded to Financial for remarks with reference the establishment asked for by the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent.

E.A.V.—11-5-18.

T.K.—11-5-18.

For orders as to whether we should wait for Sir John Marshall's reply.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—13-5-18.

Assuming that Sir John Marshall gives an affirmative answer, we shall have to consider the question of publication.

2. Regarding the method of publication, orders cannot issue now.

3. Regarding the establishment, I veto the proposed increases to existing posts and I would support the appointment of one Publication Assistant on Rs. 200, one pandit on Rs. 30 and proof-reader on Rs. 50.

The establishment to be temporary for two years. We must express in the Government Order that we expect the promise to turn out 2,000 inscriptions will be observed.

4. To lie over till reply is received.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—15-5-18.

Demi-official—from Sir JOHN MARSHALL, Kt., C.I.E., Director-General of Archaeology in India.
To—Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO Avargal, Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.
Dated—the 31st May 1918.
No.—1180.

Will you please refer to your demi-official letter No. 234-3, dated the 15th April 1918. I think the idea of preparing and publishing facsimilies of the inscriptions in the office of the Assistant Superintendent for Epigraphy in Madras is an excellent one. I suggest that 600 copies of each inscription might be printed and 50 of these distributed to scholars, who are especially interested in South Indian epigraphs and likely to help in their publication; and that the remaining 550 copies might be kept in stock pending a fuller publication of the record with accompanying letterpress.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Sir John Marshall's suggestion at A may, it is submitted, be accepted. Secretary's orders about establishment proposals are in paragraph 3 above.

2. A draft order is submitted. If approved it may go to Financial for acceptance.

It will be observed that the Director-General of Archaeology recommends the publication of "facsimilies of inscriptions" while the Honourable Member preferred transcripts to facsimilies as the latter would be enormously expensive. Subject to orders the term "transcripts" has been adopted in the draft.

3. A further communication from the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent asking for sanction to the entertainment of a temporary clerk on Rs. 50 per mensem for a period of six years to attend to the preparation of a quinquennial index to the annual reports on epigraphy is dealt with separately.

E.A.V.—18-6-18.

T.K.—19-6-18.

C.R.—21-6-18.

A. Yes; in the demi-official, reference is not to facsimilies but to transcripts. From my talks with people interested, I understand that it is enough to print facsimilies in very exceptional circumstances.

R.R.—22-6-18.

This plan will render the MSS
 rendering them accessible to scholars
 (leave) it to qualified students to trans-
 late and annotate. In pursuance of the
 above plan they direct that a large number
 of inscriptions should be printed annually
 and systematically and where the A.A.S.
 considers that the reproduction of a docu-
 ment in facsimile is necessary in the
 interests of a correct understanding of
 the contents, there is no objection to
 doing so; but it is believed that such
 cases will be few and can be confined
 to the more important and typical documents.

3. In order to carry out this object
 the Government sanction the employment
 temporarily for a period of two years of
 the undermentioned staff in the office of
 the A.A.S. for Epigraphy:-
- One publication Assistant on Rs. 200 p.m.
 - One proof reader on Rs. 40 p.m.
 - One P a n d i t on Rs. 30 p.m.

In sanctioning the above establish-
 ment, the Government expect that at least
 3000 inscriptions will be published annually.
 The Government also direct that 600 copies
 of each inscription should be printed, 50
 copies of which should be distributed to
 scholars who are specially interested in
 South Indian Epigraphs and likely to help
 in their publication, the remaining 550
 copies being kept in stock pending a
 fuller publication/ of the record with
 accompanying letter press.

3. The A.A.S. for Epigraphy is re-
 quested to submit at an early date proposals

Inscriptions.

Passing orders on the subject of the expeditious publication
 of the ----- copied by the Epigraphical Department and sanctioning
 the entertainment of certain temporary establishment for the purpose.

Read:-
 C.No.413/B. From the A.A.S. for Epigraphy, No.94, dated 22-2-1918.
 C.No.978/B. From do do No.243, dated 6-5-1918.

Order. No. dated 1918.
 Press.

~~Notes to be printed~~

(Orders alone to be
 placed on E. T.)

The Government have for some time
 past been considering the question of
 accelerating the progress of publication
 of inscriptions copied by the Epigraphical
 Department. They are ^{greatly} ~~much~~ impressed by
 the necessity for placing these invaluable
 records beyond ^{any possibility of} ~~the reach of~~ destruction which
 would be an irreparable calamity by putting them in print. ~~They are~~
~~the inscriptions themselves have disappeared~~
~~since the original copies were destroyed~~
~~During the process of printing the~~
~~originals have been lost from the~~
~~custody of the Government and the~~
~~only copies of the~~
~~inscriptions are the ones which~~
~~are now in the hands of the~~
~~Government and the destruction~~
~~of these would be an~~
~~irreparable calamity~~ The Government are
 therefore disposed to think that, while there
 is much to be said in favour of the method
 of publication at present employed by the
 A.A.S. ^{for Epigraphy} which involves complete translations
 and exhaustive annotations, the true
 interests of epigraphical study and historical
 research will be better served by the mere

2.

publication of the transcripts without notes ^{the rendering} and render them accessible to scholars leaving it to qualified students to translate and annotate. ^{Supervision} ~~the adoption~~ of the above plan a large number of inscriptions ^{should be} ~~printed~~ annually and systematically.

2. In order to ^{carry out this project} ~~hasten the work of~~ publication the Government sanction the employment temporarily for a period of two years of the undermentioned staff in the office of the A.A.S. for Epigraphy :-

One publication assistant on Rs. 200 p.m.
One proof reader on Rs. ⁴⁰ 50 p.m.
One Pandit on Rs. 30 p.m.

In sanctioning the above establishment the Government expect that ^{at least} 2,000 inscriptions will be published annually. The Government also direct that 600 copies of each inscription should be printed, 50 copies of which should be distributed to scholars who are specially interested in South Indian Epigraphs and likely to help in their publication, of the record with accompanying letter press.

3 The A.A.S. ^{for Epigraphy} is requested to submit ^{of Assistant} ~~at an~~ proposals for filling up the posts ~~at an~~ ^{and for the distribution of the 60 copies reserved for scholars.}

4 Orders will issue in the Financial Department in regard to the provision of funds.

E.A.V/18-6-18.

Ca
21.6.18

1968

W.B.

Where the A.A.S. considers that the reproduction of a document is necessary in the interests of a correct understanding of the contents, there is no objection to do so; but it is believed that such cases will be few and can be confined to the more important & typical documents.

The remaining 550 copies being kept in stock pending a further publication

Dep't to all except
D.G. of Arch. CO 23.7.18

To the A.A.S. for Epigraphy
Copy to the Supdt. of Arch. Survey.
S.G.P.
D.G. of Arch. (with the full Dept. L.)

Dep't to all except
to D.G. of Arch. CO 23.7.18
E.T. (order only)

Home (Civ) Dept

[Civ. 413 B]. From the A.A.S. for Epigraphy. No. 94 D. 22-
[" 978 B] " " " " 24.3 D. 6.

order
PS

890 D. 5-7-18

Notes to be printed

The Government have for some time had under their consideration the question whether arrangements could not be made to make the epigraphical materials accumulated in the office of the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy more readily available to students and scholars. The editing of inscriptions furnished with a complete critical apparatus is a slow and costly business and the energies of the Department have necessarily been largely devoted to searching for and securing copies of the numerous inscriptions in the Presidency before they disappear through accident or decay or as a result of the work of reconstruction and repair to which so many temples and other buildings are being subjected. As a result copies of many thousands of inscriptions now await editing and substantial additions are being made to the number every year. Further in view of the financial restrictions imposed by the war it has not been possible to bring into effect proposals for expediting progress in this branch of the work entrusted to the Department. The Government hope however that if copies of inscriptions are made more generally accessible to

the increasing number of scholars and students who are interested in South Indian antiquities and history it may be possible to enlist their co-operation in the work of translation and exegesis. With this object therefore and to obviate the risk of the impressions which at present form the sole record of these inscriptions being lost through fire or accident they have decided to make arrangements for the publication of transcripts of all inscriptions which have not yet been edited.

2 The Government accordingly sanction the employment for a period of two years of the undermentioned staff in the office of the A.A.S. for Epigraphy:-

One publication Assistant	on Rs. 200	per mensem
One proof reader	on Rs. 40	"
One Pandit	on Rs. 30	"

The A.A.S. is requested to submit at an early date proposals for filling up the post of Assistant.

3 It is expected that by means of this establishment it will be possible to publish transcripts of at least 2000 inscriptions annually. 600 copies of each inscription will be printed and the A.A.S. for Epigraphy will submit a list of institutions and scholars to whom in his opinion copies may advantageously be supplied. The remaining copies will be

kept in stock to meet further applications and the requirements of the Department.

4 Orders will issue in the Financial Department in regard to the provision of funds.

I, ⁵¹⁷ ^{Sept 5/18} ^{Epigraphy} ^{5/18}
The A.A.S. for Epigraphy (in the)
Copy to the S.A.S.
" " " S.P. in the
" " " D.K. of Arch (with Gk.)
" " " Financial Dept (with notes)
ET (order only)

517/18

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 890, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED 5TH JULY 1918.

[SUBJECT.—Publication of inscriptions copied by the Epigraphical Department.]

Previous papers :			
G.O.	447, Financial,	16th July 1904	G.O. 785, Public, 7th July 1914
"	106	6th Feb. 1905	" 920 " 4th Aug. "
"	52, Public,	17th Jan. 1911	" 865 " 5th June 1915
"	568	13th May 1912	" 1260 " 25th Aug. "
"	980	13th Aug. "	" 225 " 9th Feb. 1916
"	863	12th July 1913	" 489 " 15th Mar. "
"	961	2nd Aug. "	" 1008 " 24th May "
"	734, Educational,	11th Aug. "	" 1121 " 10th June "
"	743,	13th " "	" 99, Home (Mis.), 29th Aug. "
"	1445, Public,	25th Nov. "	Endt. 435-1 " 12th Sep. "
"	1500	5th Dec. "	G.O. 1035, Home (Edn.), 10th Aug. 1917
"	47	9th Jan. 1914	" 763 " 12th June 1918

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that two copies of question No. 107 for the meeting of the Legislative Council to be held on the 12th February 1918, may be forwarded to the Home (Miscellaneous) Department with reference to Nos. (1) and (4) of the rules regulating Secretariat procedure in dealing with these questions in the Legislative Council. Orders regarding admission will be communicated in due course.

V. T. KRISHNAMA ACHARI—1-2-18.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

To Home (Education) Department u.o.

A.V.S.—2-2-18.

P.D.E.R.—2-2-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—2-2-18.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF RAMNAD :—

Q 107.—Will the Government be pleased to undertake the publication of manuscripts and copper plates remaining with the Archæological department yet unpublished at an early date?

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The slow pace at which the publication of inscriptions and copper plates discovered by the Epigraphical Department has been proceeding, has been under the close scrutiny of Government for some time past. The matter was thoroughly investigated and certain definite instructions were issued in G.O. No. 47, Public, dated the 9th January 1914; and based on such instructions the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy furnished in his annual report for 1913-14 some idea of the programme of publication * before him—(vide paragraph 3 of G.O. No. 920, Public, dated 4th August 1914). The progress made since with reference to the above programme has not been very encouraging and year after year in reviewing the annual report the Government have been urging on the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent the importance of a vigorous campaign of publishing the materials collected by the department—(paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 1260, Public, dated 25th August 1915). Since the issue of orders of 1914 the only work that has actually been published is Part V of Volume II of the South Indian Inscriptions but subsequent volumes are in progress—paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 99, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 29th August 1916, and paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 1035, Home (Education), dated 10th August 1917.

*This has also been approved by Government.

2. The following draft answer is submitted :—

Answer.—“A definite programme in regard to the publication of inscriptions is given in paragraph 3 of the Annual Report on Epigraphy for 1913-14, placed on the Editors' Table. The Assistant Archaeological Superintendent has been asked to push on the work as vigorously as possible”—(vide page 3 of G.O. No. 920, Public, dated 4th August 1914).

E.A. —4-2-18.

C.R.—4-2-18.

What is given in the report for 1913-14 is not much of a 'programme.' A reference to it may not be of use. We may probably refer the Additional Member to G.O. No. 47, Public, dated 9th January 1914, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. This shows how keen the Government are on the point. The subsequent progress in the publication is noted in the annual reports. The careful selection, editing, translation and publication of the inscriptions with facsimiles as laid down in the order will take some time.

It has been recognized that the entire publication of the inscriptions left over at the Madras office will be almost an impossibility under existing conditions and with the present staff and management. The Government of India have proposed the appointment of a Government Epigraphist for India and a scheme, under which that officer was to be provided with a staff of assistants for the purpose of publishing epigraphical material. This was specially designed to meet cases like that of Madras where nearly 10,000 inscriptions await publication. This Government, though they first demurred to the scheme, have eventually accepted it as the only means of satisfactorily disposing of the large accumulations of Madras (please see the notes with G.O. No. 225, Public, dated 9th February 1916). The scheme is now held in abeyance owing to financial stringency (Cf. India's letter recorded in G.O. No. 489, Public, dated 15th March 1916). We cannot however refer to this correspondence in the present reply, except perhaps in a general way.

The following draft is for approval :—

“The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to G.O. No. 47, Public, dated the 9th January 1914, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. The work of publication of the inscriptions is being pushed on consistently with the other work of the department. A comprehensive scheme for the systematic and expeditious publication of all epigraphical collections is under contemplation, but its further consideration awaits the return of normal financial conditions.”

After issue of the draft to Legislative we may call for a progress report from the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—5-2-18.

Draft answer for approval.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—5-2-18.

P[ENTLAND]—5-2-18.

With reference to the orders above, a draft memorandum is submitted for approval.

E.A.V.—16-2-18.

C.R.—18-2-18.

C.R.—19-2-18.

[Memorandum No. 234/B-2, dated 20th February 1918].

The following is the final form of the question and answer:—

Q 407—Will the Government be pleased to undertake the publication of manuscripts and copper plates remaining with the Archaeological Department yet unpublished at an early date?

A. 107—The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to G.O. No. 47, Public, dated the 9th January 1914, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. The work of publication of the inscriptions is being pushed on consistently with the other work of the department. A comprehensive scheme for the systematic and expeditious publication of all epigraphical collections is under contemplation, but its further consideration awaits the return of normal financial conditions.

From the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy,
dated 22nd February 1918, No. 94.

Please see the progress report submitted by Mr. Krishna Sastri. Mr. Sastri takes this opportunity to commend for immediate consideration and sanction a scheme which is less ambitious than the one suggested in paragraph 7 of his letter No. 494, dated the 30th September 1915, for accelerating (pages 5 and 6 of G.O. No. 225, Public, dated 9th February 1916):—the progress of publication work. The chief features of the scheme are—

(i) the conversion of the "South Indian Inscriptions" volumes of which are now spasmodically issued into a quarterly journal of fifty pages to be issued under the editorship of Mr. Krishna Sastri.

(ii) the drawing of a clear line between the work of collection and reporting on the one hand and of publication on the other, the responsibility for the former being exclusively assigned to one of the Assistants in the Epigraphist's office with the marginally-noted* staff and the latter work being in the sole charge of Mr. Sastri aided by two publication Assistants, a proof-reader and a pandit.

* The three epigraphical students on Rs. 75 per mensem and the existing photographer, clerk and typist.

(iii) the fixing of the pay of the above Assistants at Rs. 250—10—300 per mensem each.

2. The above† proposals involve—

(i) the creation of three new appointments:—

	Per mensem.
	RS.
Publication Assistant on	250—10—300
Proof reader	50—5—75
Pandit	30—4—50

† The proposals entail an extra cost of Rs. 7,600 per annum besides payment of honoraria to those who may contribute articles to the proposed quarterly journal and the cost of plates to accompany the journal.

(ii) the raising of the pay of the two existing Assistants from Rs. 150—10—200 and Rs. 150—10—250 respectively to Rs. 250—10—300 each and slightly varying the present scale of pay of the three epigraphical students.

4 NOTES TO G.O. No. 890, HOME (EDUCATION), 5TH JULY 1918

3. It may be observed that when an almost similar proposal was brought forward by Mr. Krishna Sastri in connexion with the Government of India's proposal for the appointment of a central epigraphist with an adequate staff of publication assistants, the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew observed as follows:—

"... It is perfectly clear that Mr. Krishna Sastri will never be able to publish a thousandth part of the inscriptions which are already in arrears and even if he had three assistants, it is doubtful whether any real progress would be made because Mr. Krishna Sastri himself possesses little or no power of driving (page 4 of notes to G.O. Nos. 225-26, Public, dated 9th February 1916). I accordingly think that we should now accept the Government of India's proposals."

The Government of India have since postponed their scheme pending return of the normal financial situation and it will probably take a long time before they revive it (G.O. No. 489, Public, dated 15th March 1916). In the meanwhile epigraphical materials are fast accumulating adding to the already heavy arrears awaiting publication. It is therefore for orders whether a beginning may not be made by accepting Mr. Sastri's present proposals (Cf. paragraph 3 of India's letter at page 2 of G.O. No. 225, Public, dated 9th February 1916). It may also be mentioned that India's scheme even if it should come into fruition is not intended in any way to interfere with the work of publication in this Presidency.

E.A.V.—2-3-18.

C.R.—6-3-18.

It will be highly useful if anything could be done to expedite the publication work of the Epigraphist office. The proposal to convert the "South Indian Inscriptions" into a quarterly journal, though it may conduce to systematise the publication work, need not at present be considered. There is the likelihood of the main object being gradually lost sight of and other matters slowly creeping into the journal entailing the diversion of the time and energy of the staff. Further with the Government of India's scheme before us, we cannot well start the journal, the continuation of which after the introduction of the scheme will be doubtful. Without the announcement that it will be a regularly issuing journal, it may be issued regularly every quarter.

The question of increasing the pay of the existing assistants may also stand over. There is no urgency about the matter.

As regards the additional hands, the proposal seems modest as far as the number is concerned. An officer in separate charge of publication work is a necessity; and a proof-reader and a pandit may also be sanctioned. The establishment may for the present be temporary for two years. The question of its retention may be considered about the close of that period when we may have experience of work done by the staff, and when the time for the introduction of the Government of India's scheme may have come. The pay of the post may be fixed at Rs. 200. The existing assistants draw Rs. 150—10—200 and Rs. 150—10—250. That India's scheme will eventually take up this work need not, it is submitted, stand in the way of our doing the little that is possible to push on the work immediately.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARI—6-3-18.

* Resolution moved at the Legislative Council meeting of the 14th March 1918 since recorded in G.O. 763, Home (Education), 12th June 1918.

Please resubmit on return of linked * file.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—7-3-18.

To lie over till the Legislative meeting is over.

R.R.—9-3-18.

Demi-official—from Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO, Avargal.
To—the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIRANNU PILLAI, Acting Secretary to Government, Home (Judicial) Department.
Dated—the 18th March 1918.

ABSTRACT.—Enclosing a communication from M.R.Ry. T. A. Gopinatha Rao, dated 15th March 1918, regarding publication of epigraphical materials.

The Council meeting being over, the file is resubmitted with reference to Secretary's order on page 1 supra. From the newspaper report of the proceedings it would appear that the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew who spoke on behalf of the Government, though in sympathy with the object aimed at, did not accept the resolution as it stood; the resolution was however not passed: and it seems to be the intention to do something to accelerate the progress of publication work.

2. A demi-official communication from Mr. T. A. Gopinatha Rao of Travancore on the subject has been since received and added to the file. It will be observed that Mr. Gopinatha Rao is very keen about doing something to carry forward the work of publishing epigraphical materials. For this purpose he is prepared to take a year's furlough; his request is that he may be put on honorary special duty in the Madras Epigraphist's office while on leave and that he may be allowed an establishment consisting of a publication assistant, a clerk and a typist. If this arrangement is made possible he says he can publish between 2,000 to 2,500 inscriptions in the course of a year.

It may be observed that even if the Madras Government are prepared to employ him in the manner proposed, he has to get the permission of the Travancore Darbar, under whom he is now working, to take up the honorary work. Mr. Gopinatha Rao himself anticipates that the Darbar may not easily give its permission. He recalls a similar refusal on the part of the Darbar when the question of putting him on special duty in connexion with the publication of certain Silpa sastras was put before the Darbar on a previous occasion—please see the correspondence since recorded in G.O. No. E.A.V.—20-3-18.

E.A.V.—20-3-18.

C.R.—20-3-18.

There are now two sets of proposals for orders—one submitted by the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent and the other by Mr. Gopinatha Rao, Archaeologist of Travancore. Both assume that the existing establishment cannot cope with the publication work if the latter is to be done in any satisfactory way. Both of them are more or less similar, except that one substitute Mr. Gopinatha Rao as the sole officer for the publication work in place of the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent. The Secretary (Mr. Ramachandra Rao) suggests that in case we accept Mr. Gopinatha Rao's scheme, we might apply for his services and that he may be paid a remuneration, his services being taken on loan. It is not unlikely that the Travancore Darbar may grant a loan of the officer's services to this Government. Mr. Gopinatha Rao's present pay in Travancore is Rs. 250 per mensem.

This indicates that Mr. Krishna Sastri is not to be allowed to publish any more inscriptions. I don't see where this comes from.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

So he is to gain in pay at once, besides supplanting Mr. Krishna Sastri in the latter's legitimate function of publishing inscriptions.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

Why not get rid of Mr. Krishna Sastri himself? If Mr. Gopinatha Rao is to take over his main work, Mr. Krishna Sastri becomes superfluous.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

Rao) than that proposed by the Assistant Superintendent, who also asks for a publication assistant, a proof reader and a pandit. We may in the former case economise by paying the assistant only Rs. 150, as Mr. Gopinath Rao will himself be a full-time publication assistant. According to Epigraphist's proposal, a total additional sum of Rs. 310 (Rs. 200 plus 65 plus 45) per mensem will be needed; while in respect of Mr. Gopinatha Rao's suggestion a total sum of Rs. 530 (Rs. 300 plus 150 plus 50 plus 30) per mensem may be necessary. We may consider also the question of sparing one or two members of the existing establishment of the Epigraphist's office for the publication special duty. A reference to that officer may be necessary which may be done after the scheme is generally approved.

Why not get rid of Mr. Krishna Sastri himself? If Mr. Gopinatha Rao is to take over his main work, Mr. Krishna Sastri becomes superfluous.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

officer may be necessary which may be done after the scheme is generally approved.

806 Ed. 4, 21
21 June 1918

Why not before it is approved of? Is it customary to supersede the head of a department on the strength of private and confidential attacks without first giving him a hearing?

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

The offer of Mr. Gopinatha Rao gives us the prospect of a larger outturn. The Assistant Archaeological Superintendent promises the publication of 500 pages of printed matter a year; and calculating with reference to the publications already issued, some 200 inscriptions will be published every year, while Mr. Gopinatha Rao promises to publish between 2,000 to 2,500 inscriptions. The editing of the inscriptions thus published will no doubt be less elaborate than that done by the Epigraphist's office at present. Mr. Gopinatha Rao proposes to give the text and only an abstract of its contents with a note as to the description and position of the original, a plan which more or less conforms to that of Dr. Hultzsch. Though not of the elaborate type of the South Indian inscriptions the abstract will do for scholars to work upon; and if later on full translations with notes are found necessary such a work may be undertaken; and this may be a work for the Imperial Research Institute at Delhi. The department would in the meanwhile secure the benefit of having the texts printed and made available to the public.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—21-3-18.

I believe Mr. Gopinatha Rao is the only person at present who has the experience requisite for undertaking the publication of inscriptions on a large scale. I have always thought that given an organizer like Gopinatha Rao, a large band of workers may be forthcoming who may have to be paid at most only for the work actually turned out and who will help to expedite it. There are hundreds of people in the Presidency who, whether as students of Tamil or Telugu or as students of history would like to look at the inscriptions, but the latter never seem to see the light of day. Some help in the way of translation of the inscriptions or of the important passages in them would be necessary as the orthography, the vocabulary and the grammar of the inscriptions would not always be obvious to scholars. An inscription of one of the earlier Cholas or Pandyas bears the same relation to modern classical Tamil that the *Carmen Saliare* does to Augustan Latin.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

I would above all postulate in the organizer of the work a certain amount, I would say a large amount, of liberality, in welcoming and encouraging the co-operation of younger men. No doubt the possession of expert knowledge does not come to the expert except after years of patient work, but epigraphy is not a craft from which all but those who have served a costly apprenticeship need be excluded. I am afraid men like Mr. Krishna Sastri, besides being themselves somewhat inert, discourage and repel amateurs. The arrears of inscriptions have attained such proportions that they cannot possibly be cleared off within a reasonable time or at a reasonable expenditure unless every available means of securing despatch is employed. There seems to be a large number of young men who are eager to do work of this kind; but they have to be organized.

If Government are agreeable to asking for a loan of Gopinatha Rao's services for this purpose, the Resident in Travancore and Cochin will have to be addressed.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU—22-3-18.

This is a matter in regard to which Mr. Swamikannu Pillai can speak with authority and his opinion appears to be in favour of employing Mr. Gopinatha Rao. Nevertheless the more I examine the correspondence, the less favourable the result seems to me to be to this gentleman.

*Extract from M.K.Ry. T. A. Gopinatha Rao's demi-official—

"What I thought of was to take a year's furlough to show the possibility of editing 2,000 or more inscriptions a year and thus convince the Madras Government that its officer may also be made to do his work at that rate after my demonstrations. . . I can easily demonstrate the possibility of editing 2,000 to 2,500 inscriptions a year. . ."

2. I would refer first to Mr. Gopinatha Rao's declaration * that he could 'easily' undertake to publish 2,000 to 2,500 inscriptions per annum accompanied by an abstract translation, etc. Now if we assume that there would be available in the year 35¹ working days of 14 hours each, this claim would allow under 2 hours per inscription. If, however, the

worker worked only 300 days of 10 hours each, which is as much as is probable on work of this nature, it allows a little over one hour for each inscription. Many inscriptions are of considerable length; to make an accurate transcript must take time; and the work of making an accurate abstract in English of each inscription is not a light one. On the whole I am inclined to believe that Mr. Gopinatha Rao's boasts on this point are simply impossible of performance; and if this is so, we must draw the inference either that he does not know what he is talking about or that he is willfully trying to mislead us.

3. I do not particularly admire Mr. Krishna Sastri, who is a slow, plodding man, but I think we should be on our guard against unfair and interested attacks on him and it appears to me that in several respects Mr. Gopinatha Rao's attacks are quite unfair. Thus, Mr. Gopinatha Rao writing to Mr. Ramachandra Rao on 15th March quotes M. Jouveau-Dubreuil as saying that Mr. Krishna Sastri spent Rs. 40,000 on his report for epigraphy for 1917. Now the budget estimates show that the total cost of the Government Epigraphist's whole department in 1916-17 was Rs. 20,970, this covering not merely Mr. Krishna Sastri's own salary of Rs. 300-25-500 per mensem, but the salaries of his assistants, clerks, peons, travelling allowance, contingencies, rent, rates and taxes. Thus it appears that M. Jouveau-Dubreuil has not only doubled the sum which Mr. Krishna Sastri's budget estimates amount to but that he writes as though the whole cost of the department were devoted to the work of publication whereas quite half the expenditure is spent on collecting and copying fresh inscriptions, on which work all Mr. Krishna Sastri's assistants are employed the whole touring season. A great part of Mr. Krishna Sastri's own time is moreover taken up by work for Sir John Marshall's annual volume, work which he can hardly refuse to do. Mr. Gopinatha Rao must know all this, or ought to have informed himself of all this, before he included in his private letter to Mr. Ramachandra Rao this quotation from M. Jouveau-Dubreuil.

4. In his letter to Mr. Ramachandra Rao, Mr. Gopinatha Rao declares that the report of the Government Epigraphist "generally contains a large number of errors" and he speaks of "blunders" committed "by the whole generation" of Madras Epigraphists and sends up a pamphlet on the Pallavas by M. Jouveau-Dubreuil to prove this. I have only had time to glance through this but as far as I can see though the French severely criticizes Mr. Hultzsch (an Austrian) (page 53) and to less extent the late Mr. Venkayya, Mr. Krishna Sastri comes off scatheless. It hardly seems to me to be quite fair play to send up this article which attacks Mr. Krishna Sastri's predecessors' conclusions and then use it against Mr. Krishna Sastri himself. The pamphlet shows moreover that these scholars permit themselves a rather dogmatic tone in their discussions; that they don't love one another; and that M. Jouveau-Dubreuil's views have happened to coincide with those of Mr. Gopinatha Rao.

5. It appears that Mr. Gopinatha Rao has written to Mr. Robert Sewell complaints that the Government Epigraphist refuses inspection of the squeezes in his

Extract of Jouveau-Dubreuil's letter to Mr. Gopinatha Rao reproduced from the latter's demi-official.

"It is certainly not possible for me to vie with Rao Sahib A. Krishna Sastri who has been able to spend Rs. 40,000 in enriching his report on Epigraphy for 1917 with the most brilliant discoveries."

Extract from Mr. Gopinatha's Rao's demi-official.

"The reports generally contain a large number of errors due to oversight, insufficiency of understanding of the documents either in hurry-burry of the drawing up of the report or due to genuine ignorance of the language, customs, etc., of the country to which they belong. * * * As examples of blunders committed by the whole generation of the Madras Epigraphists, I am sending herewith a recent publication for your cursory glance to facilitate which I have picked up passages and underlined with red ink."

which attacks Mr. Krishna Sastri's predecessors' conclusions and then use it against Mr. Krishna Sastri himself. The pamphlet shows moreover that these scholars permit themselves a rather dogmatic tone in their discussions; that they don't love one another; and that M. Jouveau-Dubreuil's views have happened to coincide with those of Mr. Gopinatha Rao.

5. It appears that Mr. Gopinatha Rao has written to Mr. Robert Sewell complaints that the Government Epigraphist refuses inspection of the squeezes in his

office. I should like some evidence that this complaint is true. Of pages recorded in G.O. No. 1, Home (Education), dated 3rd January 1917. Mr. Krishna Sastri seems to me to be a very amiable man whose foible is rather to refuse nothing to any one rather than to adopt a "dog in the manger" attitude. Mr. Sewell asks Mr. Gopinatha Rao "Why do you not write officially to Sir John Marshall?"

* Extract from Mr. Gopinatha Rao's demi-official.

"Many other people have complained similarly against the "dog in the manger" policy of the Madras Epigraphist."

and we may repeat the question. We ought to have proof of the allegation that Mr. Krishna Sastri has refused access to the inscriptions in his office before we attach any credence to it.

6. Mr. Gopinatha Rao in his memorandum attacks what he calls Mr. Krishna Sastri's "essays" on the contents of inscriptions. These so-called "essays" are actually abstracts of the more important inscriptions. I do not think such abstracts are altogether a good way of publishing the inscription but at least it should not be misrepresented and I should like proof that Drs. Fleet, Hultzsch, etc., have pronounced them untrustworthy.

* Extract from Mr. Gopinatha Rao's memorandum:—

"It has to be mentioned in this connexion that lengthy annual reports have since 1904 been issued by the Madras Epigraphist and essays on the contents of inscriptions given in part 2 of the report."

Moreover Mr. Gopinatha Rao proposes to follow a very similar method himself, i.e., to publish with the text not a full translation but an abstract. If, as he says, this method involves "the personal equation of the Epigraphist" when Mr. Krishna Sastri uses it a similar criticism will apply when Mr. Gopinatha Rao uses it. It is true that the text is to accompany the abstract in the latter case, but I am inclined to doubt the soundness of the principle altogether. It is probable that to make an accurate abstract takes nearly as long as to make a translation, and I should prefer the latter.

7. Altogether Mr. Gopinatha Rao's attitude in these letters, etc., does not inspire me with confidence. He is admittedly on bad terms with the Diwan of Travancore and he obviously wants to get away from the State. To accomplish this, he has made an embittered attack on Mr. Krishna Sastri in a private letter beginning "my dear cousin" supported by what I believe to be untruths and boasts of what he could "easily" do himself if he were allowed to try. On the whole, I cannot support Mr. Swamikannu Pillai's proposal that we should ask for Mr. Gopinatha Rao's services until further inquiries have been made and unless they prove to be thoroughly satisfactory.

8. I am aware of the need for hastening the work of publication and I have urged this view for some years past, but the question of the methods to be followed has not yet been cleared up. My personal feeling is in favour of publishing the texts (transcripts, not facsimiles) * without

* Facsimiles would be probably preferable but any pretence of a translation. My reasons are (1) that our object is merely to put the texts safely on record and to render them accessible to scholars. It is for qualified students to translate and annotate. Mr. Swamikannu Pillai suggests that the text "will not be always obvious to scholars." But I am inclined to think that it is for scholars to qualify themselves to read the texts they want to study. We are not going to publish for the benefit of "the man in the street." (2) If we attempt a translation, we must make it thorough and accurate; mere abstracts must be liable to mislead those who rely on them as the words or sentences omitted may be of vital importance. Perusal of the pamphlet on the Pallavas shows how much may turn on a few words in an inscription. On the other hand a thorough and

21
Please
transcribe
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y

accurate translation mean prolonged time and labour and will bring us back eventually to Mr. Krishna Sastri's position, i.e., to careful but extremely slow publication. This seems to me to be the main issue, viz., whether to publish texts without translation, with an abstract translation, or with a full translation, and I would first refer it to Sir John Marshall for his opinion.

9. The second question is as to Mr. Gopinatha Rao's fitness to assist in whatever work is to be done. I don't like the attempt to discredit Mr. Krishna Sastri in order to take his place but of course Mr. Gopinatha Rao may still be a competent man. On this too, Sir John Marshall's opinion would be valuable. Possibly it would not yet be too late in the season to get him to come down and discuss the whole subject, here or at Ootacamund. He certainly owes us a visit.

10. Thirdly Mr. Krishna Sastri's progress is lamentably slow but he has put forward in the current file a definite scheme for advancing more rapidly. We might consult Sir John Marshall on that also. At present I should prefer that scheme to Mr. Gopinatha Rao's intervention.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-3-18.

It has seemed to me for some time to be desirable, and indeed almost essential to our credit in this department to hasten the work of publication. I am not personally impressed by Mr. Gopinatha Rao's methods in these recent proceedings, and there appears to be no reason whatever to discredit Mr. Krishna Sastri in any way. What his powers of organizing a substantial advance in work are likely to be, I am unable to judge. I agree generally with Sir Alexander Cardew, and it would I think be well at this point as he suggests to consult Sir John Marshall.

P[ENTLAND]—28-3-18.

Draft please.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU—30-3-18.

Telephonic-message.—from the Clerk to the Hon'ble Sir ALEXANDER CARDEW, K.C.S.I., Member of Council.

To—the Registrar, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—the 9th April 1918.

The Honourable Member wants the file on the subject of the publication of inscriptions in which he wrote a note about a week ago. If the reference to Sir John Marshall has not yet been despatched he wants it to be held back as he wants to note further on the file. Please send the file as soon as possible.

~~25-3-18.~~

Submitted that the file ~~placed below~~ may be sent to the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew, K.C.S.I.

T.K.—9-4-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—9-4-18.

Submitted to Honourable Member. I have not either read or passed the draft forwarders. L.D.S.—9-4-18.

Since I noted on the subject on the 25th of March, I accidentally learnt in conversation with Mr. Swamikannu Pillai that in every case transcripts of inscriptions are already in existence in the Epigraphist's office. In order to verify this and to see what the actual position in regard to these transcripts was, I paid a visit to the office on the 8th instant and had an interview with Mr. Venkoba Rao, Officiating Epigraphist, saw a number of transcripts and consulted him as to what could be done. Mr. Venkoba Rao's opinion was that it would be necessary to compare the transcript of each inscription with the original before it was published and he thought that, if the staff asked for by Mr. Krishna Sastri were given, there would be no difficulty in publishing quite a large number of inscriptions up to perhaps 2,000 a year without interfering with the existing operations of the department. The essential point would be that no attempt would be made to annotate, translate or give an abstract of the inscription. As soon as you commence to translate or abstract or note, you accept

Responsibility which must involve lengthy examination and consequent delay and it seems to be really clear that there is no choice between the publication of the transcripts entirely unaided by any kind of apparatus criticus and the publication of fully annotated publications in the manner in which Mr. Krishna Sastri is pursuing. The objection to the publication of the transcripts alone seems to be that European scholars will not be able to understand them. That seems to be purely imaginary, and even if it were true, it seems to me that the European scholars in question must be left to qualify themselves by learning the languages in which the inscriptions are written. Mr. Venkoba Rao informed me that the Tamil, Kanarese or other language in which these inscriptions are written, even as far back as the eighth and ninth centuries which were some of the oldest in the collection, is not more archaic than the language of Chaucer. If this is true, I think we may well publish mere texts and leave the learned world to make what use of the texts they choose.

2. I think that it would save time now to send a reference to the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy and ask him whether he is prepared to undertake to publish transcripts of inscriptions without any translation or abstract or notes (other than the name of the district and temple from which the inscription comes) if the establishment asked for by Mr. Krishna Sastri is sanctioned and if so how many inscriptions he thinks could be seen through the press in a year. This is a mere *ad interim* reference and need not delay progress of the file.

3. As regards the demi-official to Sir John Marshall, I think it might be worded as follows:—

Demi-official—from the Hon'ble Sir Alexander G. C. [Ardeu], Member of Council.

To—Sir JOHN MARSHALL K.T., C.I.E., Director-General of Archaeology in India.

Dated—the 15th April 1918.

No.—234 B-3.

As you are aware, the Government of Madras have been considering for some time how to expedite the publication of inscriptions copied by the Madras Assistant Superintendent for Epigraphy. They are much impressed by the necessity for placing these invaluable records beyond the reach of destruction by putting them in print. In many cases the inscriptions themselves have disappeared since the squeezes were taken owing to the repairing energy of recent times so that the squeezes and the transcripts from them which now exist in manuscript in the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent's office are the only record of these historical documents. It is obvious that the destruction of these records by fire would be an irreparable calamity as it would destroy a large part of the historical records that have been collected during the last thirty years. The Government are therefore disposed to think that even though the mere publication of the transcripts without notes, translation or other apparatus criticus may not be absolutely the ideal method, still in order to place the inscriptions in safety, it is essential to adopt that plan. They believe that, if that plan were adopted, a large number of inscriptions could be printed annually. I am to ask whether you see in the circumstances any serious objection to the immediate adoption of this plan.

A. G. C. [ARDEU]—10-4-18.

His Excellency for perusal.

After issue of the above demi-official, the reference to the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent (pages 44-45) will issue.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—10-4-18.

P[ENTLAND]—11-4-18.

Issue the demi-official and draft reference to the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—13-4-18.

A draft memorandum to the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy is submitted.

E.A.V.—18-4-18.

T.K.—18-4-18.

C.R.—20-4-18.

R.R.—22-4-18.

Bahadur R.
Ramachandras
Rao, Secy: to
Govt; Home
(Adm) Dept.

NOTES TO G.O. No. 890, HOME (EDUCATION), 5TH JULY 1918
[Memorandum No. 234 B.-4, dated 22nd April 1918.]
From the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy, No. 243,
dated 6th May 1918.

11

The Acting Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy reports that, in case the establishment asked for by him is sanctioned, it will be possible to publish the transcribed texts of about 2,000 inscriptions annually without translations, abstracts or historical notes. The establishment proposals are dealt with in this department at pages 1 to 1 ante. (The proposals themselves are at pages 1 to 5, and 2/ of the enclosure.) It would appear that the question of requisitioning for the services of Mr. Gopinatha Rao of Travancore has been definitely decided in the negative last sentence in Sir Alexandar Cardew's note at page 3 ante.)

[The enclosures connected with his letter have not yet been returned. May they now be returned with a demi-official]—(pamphlet (not up) about the Pallavas and memorandum at pages 28 to 29 ante).

2. The file may now be forwarded to Financial for remarks with reference to the establishment asked for by the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent.

E.A.V.—11-5-18.

T.K.—11-5-18.

For orders as to whether we should wait for Sir John Marshall's reply.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—13-5-18.

Assuming that Sir John Marshall gives an affirmative answer, we shall have to consider the question of publication.

2. Regarding the method of publication, orders cannot issue now.

3. Regarding the establishment, I veto the proposed increases to existing posts and I would support the appointment of one Publication Assistant on Rs. 200, one pandit on Rs. 30 and proof-reader on Rs. 50.

The establishment to be temporary for two years. We must express in the Government Order that we expect the promise to turn out 2,000 inscriptions will be observed.

4. To lie over till reply is received.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—15-5-18.

Demi-official—from Sir JOHN MARSHALL, Kt., C.I.E., Director-General of Archaeology in India.

To—Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO Avargal, Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—the 31st May 1918.

No.—1180.

Will you please refer to your demi-official letter No. 234-3, dated the 15th April 1918, I think the idea of preparing and publishing facsimiles of the inscriptions in the office of the Assistant Superintendent for Epigraphy in Madras is an excellent one. I suggest that 600 copies of each inscription might be printed and 50 of these distributed to scholars who are especially interested in South Indian epigraphs and likely to help in their publication; and that the remaining 550 copies might be kept in stock pending a fuller publication of the record with accompanying letterpress.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Sir John Marshall's suggestion at A may, it is submitted, be accepted. Secretary's orders about establishment proposals are at page 4 ante.

2. A draft order is submitted. If approved it may go to Financial for acceptance.

It will be observed that the Director-General of Archaeology recommends the publication of "facsimiles of inscriptions" while the Honourable Member preferred transcripts to facsimiles as the latter would be enormously expensive. Subject to orders the term "transcripts" has been adopted in the draft.

12 NOTES TO G.O. No 890, HOME (EDUCATION), 5TH JULY 1918

2. A further communication from the Assistant Archæological Superintendent asking for sanction to the entertainment of a temporary clerk on Rs. 50 per mensem for a period of six years to attend to the preparation of a quinquennial index to the annual reports on epigraphy is dealt with in the linked file.

E.A.V.—18-6-18.

T.K.—19-6-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—21-6-18.

A. Yes; in the demi-official, reference is not to facsimilies but to transcripts. From my talks with people interested, I understand that it is enough to print facsimilies in very exceptional circumstances.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—22-6-18.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

It is proposed to sanction the following additional staff in the office of the Assistant Archæological Superintendent for Epigraphy, temporarily for a period of two years, in order to hasten the publication of the texts of inscriptions:—

	Rs.
One Publication assistant	200
One proof-reader	50
One pandit	30
Total	280

The necessity for the establishment proposed has already been accepted by Honourable Member—paragraph 2 on page ante.

2. As regards the rates of pay, the assistants in the Epigraphist's office draw Rs. 150-200 and Rs. 150-250, so that the minimum pay is only Rs. 150. A higher

rate of pay to the temporary assistant may cause discontent among the permanent assistants, and they may ask for a higher initial pay. Orders are solicited whether it will not suffice to fix the pay at Rs. 150.

L.E.K.—28-6-18.

L.D.—29-6-18.

The pay of Rs. 50 proposed for the proof-reader seems also high. As the work of reading the proofs of the transcripts may be taxing, Financial may perhaps agree to Rs. 30, which is the minimum pay of the only clerk in the office (Rs. 30-3-45).

Here I think, we may suggest Rs. 30.

L.E.K.—28-6-18.

We may suggest Rs. 40.

L.D.—29-6-18.

3. An additional allotment to cover the extra cost may be sanctioned from the reserve with Financial, when the Home Department Proceedings are received.

The draft order may, it is submitted, be accepted, subject to orders on paragraph 2 above.

T.A.S.—27-6-18.

L. E. KERSHAW—28-6-18.

L. DAVIDSON—29-6-18.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The draft may be submitted to Honourable Member (Financial) and His Excellency for approval.

C.R.—1-7-18.

R.R.—2-7-18.

A revised draft approved by His Excellency is attached.

(By order)

T. E. MOIR—3-7-18.

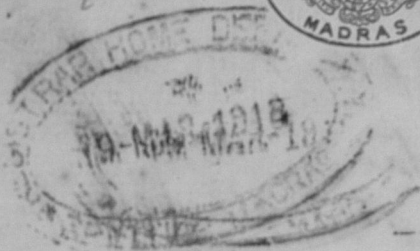
Issue.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—4-7-18.

R.R.—5-7-18.

[G.O. No. 890, Home (Education), dated 5th July 1918.]

Home (ESN)
Co. 645B
19.3.18



Madras 20
Mylapore
Madras
18m 45

My dear Swaminathan B. M.,

I had a long

talk with Gopinatha Rao
about the slowness in the
publication of ~~tent books~~;

The enclosure received
today is a memorandum
that he then promised to
send me.

Please treat the letter^a as
Confidential as it
contains reflections on
Krushna Sastri.

His proposal is shortly
that (1) he be put on
honorary special duty
for a year (2) the Travancore
Govt. should give him
permission to work under us
while on leave (3) He
wants an allotment
of Rs 5000. He undertakes
to publish 2500 comments.

The experiment¹⁰ is worth
considering. If I would
obtain his services on
loan instead of permitting
him to work honorarily under
furlough.

There is some discussion
in office about how some
docs. leaked out. Incidentally
the letter conveys some
information on the point.

The enclosed pamphlet
should be returned to format
Now - due course yours
M. S. S. S.

P.S.
I trust the
necessary steps on
my applⁿ for admission
into the "Free Distribution
List" for Govt. publications
has been forwarded.
2.A.S.

11
Trivandrum. 28

15th March 1918.

My dear Cousin,

I returned from
a month's circuit in N. Travancore
only last night. I am very
glad to receive your kind note
of the 11th Inst. I could have long
ago despatched to you the memo-
randum I promised to send you
but for the circuit I mentioned
above & the following reasons:-

I was told that an Officer on
furlough or sick leave should
not undertake even honorarily
any other job without the ex-

press orders of the Govt. I serve.
 What I thought of was to take
 a year's furlough to show the
 possibility of editing 2000 or
 more inscriptions a year &
 thus convince the Madras Govt
 that its officer may also be
 made to do his work at that
 rate after my demonstra-
 tion. If I should ask for
 permission of my Govt, I more
 than certain, Mr. Krishnan
 Nair, who is not well disposed
 with me, will certainly refuse
 it. On a previous occasion
 the Madras Govt asked my

Govt. to place me on special duty
 for editing a standard work on
 Hindu Architecture, but the Govt.
 Govt. not simply refused to do so
 but added that I was unfit
 for that work & that their
 Pandit, Mr. Panapati Sastri
 could well be chosen for that
 special work. Now also they would
 flatly refuse to permit me to
 undertake the honorary work
 for one year. This is my only
 difficulty. Otherwise I can easily
 demonstrate the possibility of
 editing 2000 to 2500 inscriptions
 per year & that in the order of the

dynasties which succeeded each other. I also draw up the memorandum, a copy of which I send herewith for your perusal. Is there any way for getting for me the permission of my Govt? I really long to break the Shibboleth of the Madras Epigraphist that only 200 inscriptions could be edited with great difficulty in one year & prove to the Govt & the world the possibility of publishing many more. Can you kindly help me to achieve my purpose in this direction?

Mr. Krishna Sastri showed me the opinions of Drs Hultzsch, Keel & other European Scholars regarding the unsatisfactory mode of work adopted in the Epigraphist's Office & condemn the long Annual Reports. In their letters they insist upon the text of all inscriptions being made available to the scholars of the world & that too as early as possible. The Reports generally contain a large number of errors due to oversight, unsufficiency of understanding of the documents either in hurry-burry of the

from their letters they insist upon the text of all inscriptions being made available to the scholars of the world & that too as early as possible. The Reports generally contain a large number of errors due to oversight, unsufficiency of understanding of the documents either in hurry-burry of the

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drawing up of the reports: or
due to genuine ignorance of the
language, customs &c of the
country to which they belong.
As such, the contribution of the
Epigraphist that gives all the
facts contained in the inscriptions
for the edification & informa-
tion of the other scholars won't
hold good. As examples of
blunders committed by the whole
generation of the Madras Epi-
graphists I am sending here
with a recent publication
for your cursory glance & to
facilitate which I have

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picked up passages & understood
them with red ink. If in one
dynasty they have committed
so many blunders, you can
imagine how many more there
will be in the history of the other
dynasties.

That the publication of the
texts are imperative has been
reiterated more than once by
not only Europeans, but by In-
dian workers like Messrs Sa-
rakkannu Pillai, Jayanti
Ramanuja Pantulu &c. A
large lot of money is spent
annually by the Archaeologi-
cal & the Epigraphical

Department, but for no purpose. Here is what a European of great acumen & learning writes to me about the wastage of Govt money:

"You say you look forward to reading it soon. I would also like to hasten its publication, but as you have rightly surmised I have neither the time nor the money necessary for it

"I cannot spare time now owing to heavy work in the College & as I have to pay out of my ^{own} pocket all the expenses connected with my

travels, researches & printing of books without getting any financial help either from the Government or from private individuals, it is certainly not possible for me to vie with Rao Sahab H. Krishna Sastri who has been able to spend Rs 40000 in enriching his Report in Epigraphy for 1917 with the most brilliant discoveries."

Of course, the last sentence is rank irony, as you will see from the printed book I have sent here with what amount of regard Prof. Foucau-Dubreuil has for

20
The Rao Sahib. Mr. R. Sewell once
wrote to me:

"I quite agree with you that the
Archaeological Department should
be asked to allow of a more general
inspection of the contents of inscrip-
tions. But of course we can better
understand the position of the Mad-
ras Epigraphist. He would say -
'If I make public the contents of
one or two inscriptions, the result
may be the making of erroneous
history, because we cannot be
perfectly certain till all inscriptions
are examined.

"The answer to that is plain.
If all inscription is locked up in the
brains of one man (or perhaps

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two), the history will never be written.
Because as years go on that man
or men will be more & more anxious
to publish nothing - hoping for still
more information - and in the end
they will die with all their knowledge
perished on the funeral pyre.

"Something of the same sort hap-
pened in the Archaeological Depart-
ment in Madras. It was organized
in 1882, and practically the whole
of the knowledge acquired by the Archae-
ologist is ~~to~~ buried (i) in his own
brain (ii) in the Government archives.
We have learned very little."

"Why do you not write, officially, to
Sir John Marshall, and ask him for
permission to study the texts of the
Pāṇḍya records at Madras or Kota-

22
canned? He would surely not refuse.

Many other people have complained
similarly against the "dog-in-the-
manger" policy of the Hordres
Epigraphist. Something must
therefore be ~~done~~^{done} to make
available the texts of the
inscriptions collected by the
Epigraphist & that as early
as possible. I wish I had
a share in making them easily
available to my fellow workers
who are badly handicapped on
account of the want of these.

May pardon me for this
enormously long letter. I could
not avoid writing it. With my
best regards,
Yours truly,
Joseph Soprint

The following draft D.O. is submitted:-

D.O. No. dated April 1918.

"Dear

"You are already aware that this Govt. have
 "for some time past been considering as to ^{how} the
 "publication of inscriptions copied by the Madras
 "Epigraphical Department may be accelerated. The
 "latest correspondence on the subject was the one
 "which ended with your letter D.O.No. 891/16, dated
 "11th December 1913, addressed to Mr. Curgenvin in
 "which you agreed to a suggestion to relieve Mr.
 "Krishna Sastri, the A.A.S. for Epigraphy, of the
 "liability to write special articles for Part II of
 "your annual report so as to afford him more leisure
 "to attend to publication work. This Govt. went
 "a little further and told him that he might bestow
 "less attention to the writing of similar articles
 "to the volumes of the Epigraphia Indica, as well.
 "Experience has shown that in spite of this relief
 "the Department has not been able to show increased
 "progress in its publication work. It is a recog-
 "nised fact that under existing conditions and with
 "the present staff it is almost impossible to over-
 "take the huge arrears left over at the Madras Epi-
 "graphist's office. But further consideration of
 "the subject was suspended owing to a scheme which
 "the Government of India contemplated in 1915 of
 "appointing a Central Epigraphist with an adequate
 "staff of assistants. As you are aware the Govt.
 "of India have since intimated the postponement of
 "the scheme owing to financial stringency created by
 "the war. In the meantime the position in Madras
 "has become acute owing to the rapidly increasing

p 20 of the notes to
 G.O. 47 Pub. (F)
 9.1.14

para 2 of G.O. 47 Pub (F)
 9.1.14

Cf. G.O. 865 Pub (10)
 5.6.15

G.O. 225 Pub (16)
 9.2.16

G.O. 489 Pub (B)
 15.3.16

slip ⑧

pp. 2 to 5 c.f.

pp. 23 to 26 ante.

H M's orders at
pp. 38 + 39 ante.

"number of inscriptions awaiting publication and the
"amount of public attention ~~that~~ the matter has been
"attracting of late. Recently there was a resolution
"moved at the meeting of the Local Legislative Coun-
"cil asking for a definite provision in the budget
"for 1918-19 in order to push through the publication
"work. The enclosed is a copy of the report obtained
in that connection in which Mr. Krishna Sastri pro-
"pounds a definite scheme for the consideration of the
"Government.

"Almost simultaneously with the receipt of Mr.
"Sastri's proposals a memorandum (copy enclosed) was
"received from Mr. Gopinatha Rao of the Travancore
"Archaeological Department in which he offers, if
"the Darbar ~~will~~ have no objection, to place his
"services at the disposal of this Government, for
"one year and demonstrate the possibility of pub-
"lishing in a year from 2000 to 2500 inscriptions
"accompanied by an abstract translation with a note
"as to the description and position of the original.

"Before the matter is finally disposed of, H.F.
"the Governor in Council would be glad to have your
"views on the respective merits of the two schemes
"with special reference to the following:-

- "(1) The fitness of Mr. Gopinatha Rao to under-
take the work,
- "(2) The method to be employed in publication,
that is to say, whether to publish texts
without translation, with an abstract
translation or with a full translation.

"I am accordingly to request you to kindly
"consider the two sets of proposals and suggest a
"suitable plan on which publication of the inscrip-
"tions can be accelerated.

E.A.V.

EL

Yours truly,

Sir John Marshall, Kt.,

C.I.E.

of Archaeology.

with copy of m.

To be initialled and dated.

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Brief subject See draft sheet

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Clerk.

Supdt.

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Clerk.

Supdt.

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