

Home (1919) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1252

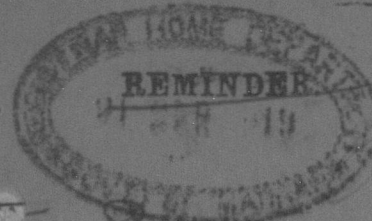
DATED 15-10-1918

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Conservation Notes.

Recording revised notes on the conservation of
the Amaravati Stupa in the Guntur district, submitted by the
Superintendent, Archaeological Survey.



Govt. 11-48-20. F. 837-1-18.
Govt 1851B/22-9

Department.
Education Branch.

REPLY.

To The Secretary, Government of India, Home (Education) Department.

Archaeological Survey of India, Southern Circle.

G.O. No. 252

The undersigned is directed to invite

attention to the communication noted in the margin and to request that this reminder may be returned at once with information as to

- (1) the stage at which the matter now is,
- (2) the date by which a reply may be expected and
- (3) the circumstances which have caused the delay.

2. It is requested that the reply to this reminder may be sent not later than

The notes in question are still in the Press but the final copies are expected next week. The delay in getting the notes printed is due to delay in the office of the Director General of Archaeology in Simla.

A. H. Loughurst
20-9-19

[Despatch Abstract.]

Superintendent, Archaeological Survey Department, Southern Circle.

Office Home Secy.
Station Cotacambur
Dated 17-9-19

Signature
Designation

SUBJECT.

Revision of the communication notes on the

Lodged for the Government.
2. The Site may be reminded on 15.10.19, if need be.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



To

The Superintendent,

Archaeological Survey,

The undersigned has the honour to invite is directed to invite invites

attention to the communication noted in the margin and to request that this reminder may be returned at once with information as to—

- (1) the stage at which the matter now is,
- (2) the date by which a reply may be expected—and
- (3) the circumstances which have caused the delay.

2 It is requested that the reply to this reminder may be sent not later than

Office *Home Sect.*
Station *Cotacaimund*
Dated *17.9.19*

Signature
Designation

SUBJECT.

Revision of the
Conservation notes on the
Amaravati Stupa

C.F. 88.

Con 18518/22-9

Home Department.

Education Branch.

REPLY.

To *No 575 Dated 20-9-19*

The Secretary to Government

Home (Education) Department.

The notes in question are still in the Press but the final copies are expected next week. The delay in getting the notes printed is due to delay in the office of the Director General of Archaeology in Simla.

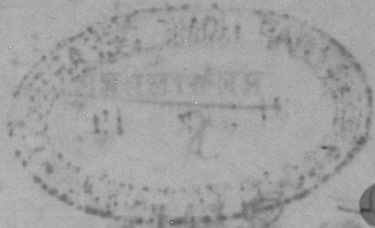
A. H. Loughurst
20-9-19

Superintendent,
Archaeological Survey Department,
Southern Circle.

Home
(Ed. M)
Lodged.

2 The S. A. S. may
again be reminded on
15.10.19, if needed be.

23-9-19
Atthg



REMINDER.

To

The Supdt.

Archaeological

Survey

The undersigned has the honour to invite
is directed to invite

attention to the communication noted in the

C.O. No. 738, dated 13.6.19 margin and to
request that

this reminder may be returned at once with
information as to—

- (1) the stage at which the matter now is, &
- (2) the date by which a reply may be expected and
- (3) the circumstances which have caused the delay.

2. It is requested that the reply to this
reminder may be sent not later than

Mananjary

Office Home Dept.

Station, Cochin

Dated 25.7.19

Signature.

Registration
Designation.

25.7.19

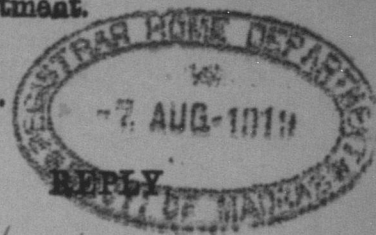
SUBJECT.

Revision of the
Conservation notes on the
Amarakathi Stupa

CNO 15256/7.8.19

Home Department.

Education Branch.



REPLY

To

No. 481

6.8.19

THE Registrar

Home (Education) Dept.
Col-a-Carnaud.

The revised notes in
question were sent to
Paris on late 27 July
& the proofs have not
yet been received. As
soon as they are received
duplicate proofs will
be forwarded to the
D.G. of Archaeology for
approval.

(2) I have been too busy
with my Annual Report
to attend to this matter
earlier.

A. H. Langford

Archaeological Department
S. Circle

Camp
Kotagani
5-8-19

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Leu 1904 B

Received

Registered 1.10.1919



Subject.

Submitting printed copies of the revised "Inspection Notes on the Amaravati Stupa in the Guntur District dated 1st August 1919.

ENCLOSURES
No. One in duplicate.
State copies Nil.

No. 603

Station Madras, Dated the 29th September 1919

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

(Designation) Superintendent, Archaeological Survey

Southern Circle

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

HOME (EDUCATION) Department.

Cotacamund.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith in duplicate, copies of my "Inspection Notes on the Amaravati Stupa, Guntur District, dated the 1st August 1919.

2. Copies of the Notes in question have been forwarded to the Director of General of Archaeology, Superintending Engineer, II Circle and the Collector of Guntur District for Information.

I have the honour to be, Sir Your most obedient servant,

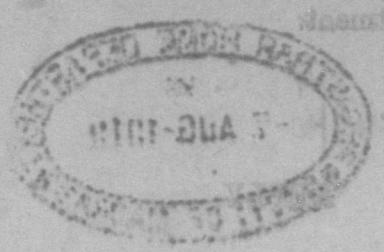
A. A. Longhurst. Superintendent.

Home (Ed. M)

Lodged.

The Suppl: may again be examined on 15.9.19, if need be.

Handwritten signatures and initials



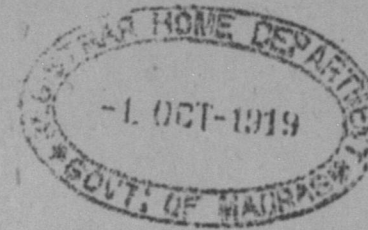
Vertical handwritten notes on the left margin

Vertical handwritten notes at the bottom left

Vertical handwritten notes in the middle right margin

Vertical handwritten notes at the bottom right

INSPECTION NOTES ON THE AMARAVATI STŪPA, GUNTŪR DISTRICT.



GENERAL REMARKS.—All that now remains of this famous Buddhist monument is the site, a small ruined stūpa and the basement of a little brick temple still stand just without the south gateway and a number of mutilated sculptures and carved stones which were not considered worth removing to the museum by those who formerly excavated the site may still be seen. The site consists of a large open flat circular grass space surrounded by a ruined stone paved processional path which was once enclosed on its outer side by a massive stone railing composed of big upright granite blocks connected together with stone rails of the usual Buddhist type. The site of the masonry stūpa that once stood in the centre and which was enclosed by the beautiful white limestone railing; the bas-reliefs of which are so familiar to the educated public, is no longer discernible. Broken portions of the railing and a few carved slabs alone remain on the site but all traces of their original positions have vanished. On the outer side of the processional path a ditch about 4 feet deep and 6 feet wide was foolishly dug all round by some former explorer of the site and left open, with the result that during the rains the ditch is full of water and the huge upright blocks of granite that once formed the posts of the railing that enclosed the site have fallen over into the ditch and are now buried in earth and debris. On the outer side of the ditch is an embankment about 12 feet in height which is continued all round the circular site. The flat central space is covered with dumps of broken stone and brickbats unearthed during the excavations and a margosa tree has been planted in the approximate centre of the site, presumably, so that visitors may know that the tree indicates the position of the stūpa that once stood on this spot. Margosa trees have also been planted at the four cardinal points, where the old gateways used to be, and also all round the greater length of the processional path. This was a mistake because the trees are now of considerable size with roots in proportion which offer serious obstruction to all future excavation around this area. On the north-eastern side of the site and on top of the embankment is an oblong open enclosure constructed by the Public Works Department for the custody of the few remaining sculptures and carved stones. Alongside of the enclosure is a shed for the watchman who is permanently retained to look after the site on behalf of the Government. The general appearance of the site is that of a

disused stone quarry overgrown with rank vegetation and which has been converted into a public latrine by the local villagers and pigs who live in the huts which surround the site on the east and northern sides respectively. It is obvious that this unsatisfactory state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue and that the site of this famous monument at least must be clearly demarcated and steps taken to preserve the remaining antiquities and carved blocks of stone on the spot. As these notes are written mainly for the guidance of the Public Works Department officer who may be deputed to carry out the repairs, proposed below, I will describe each item separately:—

(1) *The ditch.*—Before any repairs can be carried out, the ditch which surrounds the outer side of the stone paved processional path should be filled in with brickbats and earth up to the level of the path. As mentioned above, there are a number of big granite blocks which once supported the stone railing lying at the bottom of the ditch. As most of these are broken and owing to their vast weight and the trouble and expense that would be involved in attempting to refix them in position, they may be allowed to remain where they are. But on the eastern side of the path there are eight of these blocks in fair condition and here too the ditch is not so deep as elsewhere. These eight blocks should be refixed in an upright position against the old brick foundations of the stone paved path. When in position, they should be supported all round with a well-rammed filling of broken stone and brickbats so as to prevent settlement. There is any quantity of material for this work stacked on the spot. The earth required for levelling up the ditch can be obtained from the mound which surrounds the outer side of the ditch.

(2) *Vegetation.*—Clear the circular site and surrounding embankment of rank vegetation and remove any of the large margosa trees which may offer obstruction to the work of repairing the stone paved processional path. The tree planted in the centre of the site may be left for the present. Remove the dumps of broken stone and brickbats from the central area so as to leave a clear open circular grass plot.

(3) *Carved stones and sculptures.*—There are a number of broken rails, carved slabs and sculptures lying about in and around the central area. These should be collected and stacked under the margosa tree planted in the centre of the site. When this has been done I will visit Amaravati and decide which of these antiquities are worth preserving. Some are valuable, others are worthless, therefore, it is

of para 1 of the Inspr notes
recorded in G.O. No 636 (22nd)
17-5-18
(L)

of para 3 of the Inspr notes
on p. 8 of G.O. No 738 (22nd)
13-6-19
(P)

unnecessary to remove all of them to the Public Works Department enclosure on the north-eastern side of the central area.

(4) *Processional path.*—The existing path surrounds a flat open circular space measuring 165 feet in diameter and the path itself is 12 feet in width and consists of a layer of bricks and broken stone bedded in mud and paved on top with cutstone slabs 3 inches in thickness. The size of the paving slabs varies, but some of them are 12 feet in length and about 2 feet in width. The outer side of the path was originally enclosed by the big granite railing mentioned above, and which now lies at the bottom of the ditch. On its inner side, the path was apparently bounded by an ornamental limestone railing similar in style to the broken pieces of railing that still exist on the site. However, all traces of the position and extent of this inner railing has gone, so no attempt need be made to try and reproduce it now. But if the site is to be of any interest to the educated public, it is essential that the central area be demarcated so as to show the extent of the original stupa and the position of the circular pathway by which it was enclosed. The Director-General of Archaeology has suggested the following proposals for this work:—
“Relay the existing pavement slabs (where the relaying is necessary) on a light foundation of broken stone or brick and mud and to demarcate the rest of the processional path by edging it round on the inner and outer sides with broken pieces of the old pavement. The central part of the pathway within the edging may either be paved with the same broken slabs (if there are sufficient for the purpose) or turfed over. The old pavement slabs can be laid in mud and grass allowed to grow between the interstices.”

(5) *Drainage.*—When the repairs to the pavement are finished, the central space should be levelled and sloped for drainage so that all surface water flows from the centre, where the central margosa tree now stands, so that water may not collect and stagnate on the pathway.

(6) *Old brickwork.*—Between the south and west gateways, where the old paving of the processional path still exists there are the remains of a brick wall about 1 foot in height and 8 yards in length standing on the pavement and originally against the outer stone railing. It looks as though this wall was once carried round the whole site and that it was provided with little niches for the accommodation of Buddhist images and small votive stupas presented by pious pilgrims as memorials of their visit to this famous monument. This bit of old wall should be repaired and retained as far

of para 5
of the Inspr notes
recorded in G.O. No
636 (22nd) (L)
17-5-18

Vide portion marked
A on p. 2 of G.O. No
1428 (22nd) (N)
8-4-18

of paras 7 & 8
of the Inspr notes
recorded in the
G.O. at ship (L)

as possible intact by pointing the joints in the brickwork and plastering the exposed top of the wall.

(7) *Future excavations.*—As it will be necessary to carry out further excavations outside the central area, the question of enclosing the stūpa site with a wall or fence may be left over until all excavations are finished. In the meantime, the really valuable movable antiquities lying about the central area can be removed for safety into the Public Works Department enclosure mentioned above.

(8) *Small stūpa.*—This is situated just outside the site of the south gateway. It is a small mound built of brick in mud and faced with carved limestone slabs of great beauty and interest. The top of the slabs are broken and the brick core within is much decayed and exposed. The brickwork should be repaired and the outline of the domed mound thus restored to its former shape, but it is unnecessary to reproduce the tee that once stood on the crown of the dome. In order to make the monument watertight, the joints between the stone slabs and also the tops of the same, to prevent further mutilation by visitors, should be neatly pointed with good sound cement of the same colour as the old stonework. Opposite to this stūpa is a little ruined square brick temple the decayed walls of which are only about 2 feet in height. In order to preserve this ruin, the Officiating Director-General of Archaeology suggests that the two upper courses of the walls should be taken off and reset in invisible cement mortar. The ground all round sloped to ensure proper drainage. The interior originally had a terraced floor, this should be restored to its former state so as to make the interior watertight.

(9) *Entrance.*—An entrance to the central area from the road should be made on the south side of the site by removing the embankment on this side and cutting a road straight through it and at the same time levelling the ground around the small stūpa and the ruined brick temple which stand on this side of the great stūpa site. This road is not only necessary for visitors approaching the site but will be required when further excavations are carried out in the near future.

(10) These notes are in supersession of my former printed notes on this subject, dated the 15th April 1918.

A. H. LONGHURST,
Superintendent, Archaeological Survey,
MADRAS, Southern Circle.
1st August 1919.

(1) This pointing should be tucked back from the face and rendered as inconspicuous as possible.

D. B. SPOONER,
Offg. D.G. of Archaeology.

28th August 1919.

cf para 6 of the Engr. notes
up p 8-9 of Geo No 738 (2nd)
(P) 13.6.19

(2) with old bricks or at least bricks of the same size as the original.

D.B.S.

28th August 1919.

Recorded in Geo
No 636 (2nd)
17.5.18
(L)

pp 1-4 of
Geo No 1428 (2nd)
8.11.18
(N)

cf para 8 of the
notes p. 5 cf

Subject:— Notes on the conservation of the Amaravati stupa.

Please see paras 2 to 6 and 8 of the D.G.'s letter at pages 11 to 14 of Geo No 738 Home (2nd) of 13.6.19 in which he offered certain suggestions on Mr. Longhurst's proposals for the conservation of the Amaravati stupa, Guntur Dt. The S.A.S. was asked to revise his conservation notes in the light of the D.G.'s remarks and to submit a copy of the notes in printed proof to the D.G. before submitting it to Govt. Then a comparison of the conservation notes submitted by the S.A.S. of the 15th April 1918 with the notes now submitted by the Supt., it will be observed that the suggestions of Sir John Marshall in his letter No 1161 of 31.5.18 have been followed. The Supt. has also submitted detailed proposals in regard to the repairs to the small stupa and the basement of a ruined brick temple as desired by Mr. D.B. Spooner in

pp 12-13 of
Geo. at ship
(7)

in para 6 of his letter of 21.5.19. ^{Further,} ~~he~~ has
~~also~~ made it clear that the printed
note of the 15th April 1918 has been
cancelled - Vide para 10 of the present
note at p. 5 of-

cf also the
Supt's reply
to a remt at
(6)

2 The Supt. appears to have
submitted a copy of the note in printed
proof to the D.G. who has presumably
approved it - Vide D.G.'s notes at p. 5 of
Subd mat the conservation note
may, as usual, be recorded, a copy
being forwarded to the P.W.D. A draft
order is subd for approval

24
8.10.19
24
9.10.19

24
14.10.19
15/10/19

Recording revised notes on the conservation of
the Amaravati Stupa in the Guntur D.L., submitted
by the Supt.L., Archaeological Survey.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 1428 (2nd) dated 8 — 11 — 1918. (L)
" " " 738 " " 13 — 6 — 1919. (P)

C. No. 1904, B From the S - A - S, No. 603, dated 29 - 9 - 1919

No. 1252, dated 15-60-1919

Wm

Recorded

8.10.19

14.10.29

Tel.
 9.10.48

1570

Revised with 2
CA
16/09

To

the S. A. S - 9/10

copy to me PWD - (g/to with
a copy of
the inc
notes)

Adams

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

Dat

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR ORNAMENT
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.

B = Not to be copied.

F = Copy abstract only.

Q = Copy heading only.