

Law (1926) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1353

DATED 16-7-1926

(6)

(5)

[Despatch Abstract.]

MUSEUM.

Preservation of bronzes--chemical treatment by Mr. Ahuja

Efficacy--papers recorded.

FURTHER PAPER

பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு -1

ஆராய்ச்சி
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

CF. 30

DEPARTMENT.



Received

Registered

192

Subject.

ENCLOSURES.

No.

No. 431-2/26 - 14.

Spare copies

Station MADRAS

Dated the

8th April 1926

From (Name) F.H.Gravely Esqr., D.Sc.,

(Designation) Superintendent, Government
Museum.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras

Law (Education) Department.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with my letter No. 1209-1 dated 24th October 1925, regarding the preservation of bronzes, I have the honour to ~~rep~~ report that out of the 80 images treated by Ram Singh Ahuja, during the period April to September 1924, it was observed that green patches had appeared by September 1925 on 17 figures indicating the recurrence of corrosion, and another 11 have since been affected making a total of 28. The matter was brought to the notice of the Director-General of Archaeology, who referred it to the Archaeological Chemist in India, Dehra Dun. The latter agrees that the results are disappointing, and

ascribes

ascribes it to carelessness on the part of Mr. Ahuja, though he appeared to me to have given all reasonable care. In the opinion of the Archaeological Chemist, the best plan would be for the Government to appoint a Chemist and depute him to Dehra Dun to carry out the cleaning of the figures under his direct supervision, treating small and medium sizes first, and returning here to finish the work when he has mastered the technique. As, however, Ahuja himself was trained under and recommended by him, I am doubtful if it will be of any use appointing a chemist and deputing him to Dehra Dun. Mr. Brian Smith, Professor of Chemistry, Presidency College, whom I consulted in the matter, is also of the view that it will probably be useless to send a man for training at Dehra Dun. He saw Mr. Ahuja when here and thinks that he carried out his instructions carefully. Mr. Smith is, however, unable to assist us further at present as he is going on leave in a few days. I have accordingly the honour to suggest that the matter be allowed to remain in abeyance till Mr. Smith returns in December, and can give us the benefit of his advice. If Government approves of this course it will not be necessary to sanction the appointment of Mr. Ahuja to carry out the work during the current year.

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

J. B. Grave
Superintendent.

① *Law (Educ) sept.*
E. No. 1114 E. From the S. G. M.,
No. 431-2/26 M, dated 8-4-1926.

Govt. Museum - Preservation
of bronzes.

M

In G.O. No. 665 Law (Education), dated 1-5-1925, the Govt. sanctioned the creation for a period of one year of a temporary post of Archaeological Chemist at Rs 250 a month for work connected with the chemical treatment and preservation of the bronze images in the Museum. Mr. Ramesh Singh Ahuja who treated 80 images in 1924 was appointed to the post. In October 1925 the S.G.M. reported that Mr. Ahuja had not joined the appointment till then, that he would be able to do so only in October 1926 and that provision might be included in the budget for 1926-27 for his pay for five months from October 1926. Necessary

Mps-6 G.O. No.
581 LE II
9-6-1926

provision was accordingly entered in the budget.

The date of sanction for the appointment of Archaeological chemist expires on 1-5-1926.

The S. A. M. reports that the results of the treatment given by Mr. Ahuja in 1924 to the 80 images referred to above are disappointing and that the question of sanctioning the appointment in 1928-27 ^{may} might be deferred till the

advice of Mr. Smith, Professor of Chemistry, Presidency College, can be had obtained on the subject. Mr. Smith is going on leave in a few days and will return only in December.

In these circumstances it is for order whether the proposal of the Superintendent that the work of treating the bronzes may be kept in abeyance will be approved. There seems to be

no help for it. The file will be submitted again in Dec. 1926 when Mr. Erlam Smith

of

of the Presidency College is expected to return from leave.

For W.S.

14.4.26

Put up in July

VTR

15/4

Post copy of telephonic message dated 21st instant from the Offg. Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras, to the Under Secretary to Government, Law (Education) Department, Madras.

Reference my letter ~~date~~ No. 431-2 dated 8th April 1926 regarding the preservation of bronzes. Please let me know if Mr. Ram Singh Ahuja may be informed that his services will not be required this year. The proposal to suspend the work has not yet been communicated to him, pending the orders of Government.



Dated 21st May 1926.

H. K. Raghavan
Offg. Superintendent.

Government Museum,
Madras.

Law (Education) Deptt.

Please see the Secretary's orders above. For orders in the reply to be given to the Superintendent, Govt. Museum, as per appl. —

H. K. Raghavan

Your T. M. of the 25th inst.

You may inform Mr. Ram Singh

Ahuja that his services will not

be required this year. The question
 of the arrangements to be made
 for the treatment of the bronze
 idols in the museum will be further
 considered in July.

29.5.26

Key S

1/6

V.T.K.
2/6

For W.D.

It is perhaps better
 to let M₂ and the file

Resubmitted with reference to
 Secretary's order in the previous page.
 (Mr. Graham Smith has been granted
 leave for five months with effect in
 continuation of the summer vacation
 of the Presidency College. He returns
 from leave only next December)

14.7.26

R
14.7.26

Then there is no use in

I have spoken to Dr. Gravelly on this subject.
 He is not satisfied about the efficacy of the pro-
 cess followed by Mr. Ram Singh Ahuja under instruct-
 ions from the Archaeological Chemist in India. He
 thinks therefore that there would be no use in
 continuing the work at present. Dr. Gravelly is



making enquiries about the best method of dealing
 with such bronzes and will address the Government
 again. No sanction will be required in the current
 year. The papers may therefore be recorded.

V.T.K.

15-7-26.

G.C. No. 1353 D/16.7.26
 Rev

Museum -

Preservation

of bronzes -
 chemical treatment
 efficacy of by M. Ahuja
 M. Ahuja's
 treatment efficacy

Papers needed.

Recorded.

V.T.K.