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Education & Public Health ~~Dept~~
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Museum - Govt - Madras - appointment of Two Assistant curators to work as guide lecturers - sanctioned - proposals for the reorganisation of the Museum - orders passed -

Further papers.

1) G.O. Ms. No. 2492. Edn., d., 4-8-'49.
2) " " " 2627. " " 22-8-'49.
3) " " " 632. " " 28-2-'50.
4 " 3263 Edn d, 21-12. 1948

D.O. No. 830-1/45

Government Museum,
Egmore, Madras,
May 22, 1945.

24 MAY 1945

23414

Dear Sir,

Ref. G.O.Ms.No.665 Edn., dated 27th April '45.

I shall be much obliged if you will let me know whether it will be convenient for you to attend a preliminary meeting of our Committee which, if you agree, I should like to arrange on Saturday 9th June 1945.

Enclosed herewith I am sending you copies of two memoranda prepared by the Museums Association of Great Britain, which, I hope, will interest you.

Yours sincerely,

A. Aiyappan
22/5/45

M above

Submitted for orders.
W
25.5.45

Ys-

C. O. Coorey Esq. I.C.S.
Dy Secretary to Govt.
Edn. & P.H. Department, Madras

MEMORANDUM ON MUSEUMS AND RECONSTRUCTION

(Prepared by the Council of the Museums Association and submitted to the Reconstruction Committee of the War Cabinet)

1. INTRODUCTORY

The United Kingdom before the War contained between 800 and 900 museums and art galleries. Of this number, and apart from the major national institutions, 400 were under Local Government Authorities. The rest were governed by a variety of bodies, ranging from Departments of State to private individuals.

The membership of the Museums Association covered the great majority of the museums and art galleries of the British Isles, and of those in the British Empire.

2. FUNCTIONS

The functions of museums and art galleries may best be defined under the four heads of (*a*) conservation, (*b*) research, (*c*) visual education, and (*d*) aesthetic enjoyment.

(*a*) Their first function is to collect and to conserve those objects of scientific, historical, or artistic importance, which are or may be of use to this and succeeding generations. Collections so conserved are in great part an irreplaceable asset of civilization.

(*b*) As conservators of such materials it is the second function of museums to render them available to research workers, including their own staffs, for investigation, and to the general public for information and appreciation.

(*c*) The third function, that of providing visual education, has grown so important within the last twenty years that it overshadows the first two in the public mind. In this field, museums have given valuable service to universities, schools, and adult and other educational organizations, since many subjects, in natural and human history and in applied science, require museum material as part of their teaching equipment. The increasing number of visits by educational parties, requests for loan collections and the like, show that this side of museum activities was more and more appreciated in the years before the War.

(*d*) A vital function of museums and art galleries is to provide facilities for aesthetic enjoyment; a point of such obvious importance that it does not need amplification.

Museums as local centres for community cultural activities, for the cultivation of public taste, and for inspirational education in terms of ideas as well as things, are as yet only on the threshold of development.

3. FINANCE

Adequate discharge of the functions of a museum requires adequate finance, and this in the past has seldom been forthcoming. Few Local Authorities found more than 3*d*. per head per annum (amounting to something less than a ½*d*. rate). Thus supported, few institutions apart from those serving the larger centres could do much more than keep their collections on a care and maintenance basis. Moreover, proper provision for a qualified staff could not be ensured. The annual income of even the smallest museum should permit the employment of at least one trained officer at a reasonable salary level and so enable the utmost use to be made of the available facilities.[1]

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

The Association would therefore welcome a system of Government grants to provincial museums and art galleries, made perhaps in a similar manner to those allotted to universities.

The Association fully appreciates that such grants would involve periodical inspection, and is prepared to agree that the payment of grants

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[1] See Report on the Museums and Art Galleries of the British Isles, by S. F. Markham, M.A., B.Litt., M.P. (1938), 170.

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should depend upon such inspections and on approval of annual reports submitted to the appropriate authority. It is recognized that a proportion of museums are unworthy of the Museum Movement, but the majority deserve every help that can be given by the Government, by Local Authorities, or by independent bodies such as the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, which has already been of great assistance to the Movement. The possible nature of the authority contemplated is discussed under Section 4, and Appendix A.

Such grants could be given, e.g. up to 50 per cent of the museum's educational expenditure, or 15 per cent of its entire budget, and should be coupled with conditions laid down for the standards to be met by the Local Authority. The Grants should be made on the clear understanding that the governing bodies of museums should not correspondingly reduce their own expenditure.

4. ADMINISTRATION

It is perhaps in this field that the greatest changes are needed, for under the existing system of local government many rate-aided museums are controlled by committees who may have little knowledge of science or art.

Administration is therefore a problem as fundamental as finance, with which it is closely connected. Under the present conditions there is too little official encouragement or help given to museums in the provinces, and such as exists is too little co-ordinated.[2]

We would urge that the extension and development of such help is indispensable to the future of the Museum Movement. (See Appendix A.) It is evident that such a scheme would require increased national expenditure, not only in the form of grants but on the establishment of a central staff. It may be remembered that the Museums Association before the War suggested that a Royal Commission should be set up to consider this question.

We would urge furthermore that the organization over the whole country of an adequate museum service should be envisaged. (This important point is elaborated in Appendix B.)

5. LOCAL CHARACTER AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

These suggestions do not imply that the Association desires uniformity either of content or display among the provincial museums and galleries. On the contrary, one of the aims of every such institution should be the stimulation of local interest by the collection and study of local material.

At the same time, it is suggested that museums and art galleries everywhere should lay more stress upon their educational duties. Education, however, must not be interpreted in any narrow sense. The scope of museums and art galleries would be unduly narrowed if they were subordinated to the requirements of elementary and secondary education, with which Local Authorities have hitherto been mainly concerned. Equal consideration should be given to the instruction of schoolchildren; to adult education (not forgetting the numerous uninformed casual visitors); and to specialist research.

Circulating exhibitions are particularly valuable (see Appendix C), and we suggest that this is a field especially well suited for the activity of a central authority.

6. CONCLUSION

The Museum Movement in this country has rendered very great service to the public in general, and to specialized classes of the public in particular, at an extremely low cost. We suggest that the time has now come for such action to be decided upon as will enable museums and art galleries to play their part more efficiently in the post-war world. If a better use of leisure be one of the chief aims of an improved social order, we know of no group of institutions better able to contribute to this end than the museums and art galleries of Great Britain.

Finally, the Council of the Museums Association wishes to say that it is at the disposal of the Committee if further information is desired on points necessarily briefly referred to in this Memorandum, or on other relevant matters.

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[2] The state of affairs at the outbreak of the War may be gathered from Chapter IV, 22 of the Markham Report.

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APPENDIX A

Possible nature of a central body for encouragement and help. (*Section 4.*)

The required central help could be secured in a number of possible ways, preferably by means of a Museums Grants Committee comparable to the University Grants Committee.

The central body should in any case be able to take into consideration the assistance that museums can give to other cultural organizations, and that which these in turn can give to museums.

APPENDIX B

Possible changes in Local Administration. (*Section 4.*)

From the museum and art gallery point of view any proposed re-organization of Local Government administrative areas should embody the following points:—

(*a*) Museums and art galleries should be distributed in such a way as to serve the whole population of the country.

(*b*) The administration of such museum and art gallery service should be entrusted to some authority of wide scope, with consideration for the geographical completeness of the service, rather than present administrative boundaries.

(*c*) Areas which, by geographical consideration should, but by reason of financial limitations cannot, provide an adequate museum and art gallery service, should be given exceptional financial consideration.

In the constitution of local committees the following points should in any event be taken into consideration: That museum and art gallery committees should be autonomous and not sub-committees of larger committees; that co-operation with other education committees might be established by partial over-lapping of committee personnel; and that the appropriate executive officer should attend all meetings of the committee.

APPENDIX C

Circulating Exhibitions. (*Section 5.*)

We consider that it is particularly important, especially in connexion with the activity of a central body as envisaged in Appendix A, to encourage the circulation of exhibitions of works of art and collections of historical, archaeological, and scientific objects. Travelling collections of works of art, such as those which have been organized for so many years by the Circulation Department of the Victoria & Albert Museum, already form an important part of the activities of the larger galleries; they are vital to the smaller ones, which cannot afford to purchase permanent collections or even to organize special loans from their own financial resources. It is hoped that the valuable work done by the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts during the War will be continued after the War. Other bodies such as the British Institute of Adult Education and the Central Institute of Art and Design might be asked to collaborate, and the idea might be extended to include the circulation of collections other than artistic.

Reprinted from The Museums Journal, vol. 42, pp. 78–80, July, 1942

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM ON LOCAL MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY REPLANNING

The Museums Association is anxious to impress upon all responsible for the Public Museums and Art Galleries of the country the need for giving most careful consideration to post-war development. While recognizing what our institutions have accomplished there can be no doubt that much more will be expected of them in the future. Better provision for educational needs and the enjoyment of leisure, in both of which fields museums and art galleries can play a worthy part, are clearly desirable. Education, which has in the past tended to lay too great stress on the printed word, will certainly need to make more and more use of the actual object, which it is the function of museums to display intelligently and attractively. The resultant problem of providing material, staffs, buildings, and equipment will make heavy calls upon all museums and art galleries which are or can be made efficient.

It is therefore incumbent upon officials, committee members, and trustees to visualize their responsibilities to the people of their particular areas. Good museums and art galleries are as important to the whole public as are schools and colleges to the more youthful sections of it, and just as public library facilities must bear a close relationship to the size of the local population, the accommodation of a museum or an art gallery should be considered in terms of maximum potential demands. In some places, modification and re-arrangement may be all that is necessary; in others an extension may be required; in yet others a new building may have to be contemplated, in which case it must be included in any general scheme of Post-War Town Planning.

The internal arrangement of the museum or art gallery is properly a matter for the official concerned, who could, in the light of past experience and potential future demands, prepare a scheme for submission to committee members and trustees. In it he could indicate the various departments for which provision should be made, taking into account what is appropriate to the district and to its educational requirements. Contacts with active members of artistic and learned societies and with educational bodies will often yield valuable suggestions. The best material in the existing collections could serve as a nucleus and additions subsequently considered could be assessed in the light of the accepted scheme. Accommodation should be set aside not only for the display of the permanent collections, but also for loan exhibitions, for reserve collections, for lectures, for staff and students, and for aiding the development of study groups as well as catering for individual desires. It is anticipated that circulating exhibitions will be available on a far more extensive scale, and there is every reason to hope for co-operation on the part of the national museums and art galleries, as well as the large provincial centres, in this work.

Imagination is called for in the development of the smaller museums and art galleries, and there is good prospect that, if they can produce worthy, appropriate, and practical schemes, assistance will be afforded them in the fields of finance and of scientific, artistic, and technical advice and skill. While each institution will retain its individuality, it will not stand alone. In several regions there are Federations of Museums and Art Galleries serving as a link with the national Association and providing practical help and support.

The Museums Association aims at ever greater service for institutions, staffs, and public alike. Close contact with corresponding organizations overseas ensures that the Association is in a position to diffuse research results and to direct specific inquiries. If at the present juncture general suggestions, criticisms, or help with detailed problems are desired, inquiries may be sent to the Museums Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1.

Reprinted from the Museums Journal, Vol. 43, p. 129, December, 1943.

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E & P.H. Dept.
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CW%. 23414.

D.O. 23414 A-1 Edn d 28.5.45.

Dear Dr. Aiyappan,

Govt. Museum – Committee constitution – Suggestions for arrangements.

Please refer to your D.O. No. 830-1/45 dated 22.5.45 on the subject. I accept your suggestion to hold the preliminary meeting of the Committee on the 9th June '45. Please make arrangements accordingly.

28.5.45

28.5.45

28/5/45

Dr. A. Aiyappan M.A. Ph.D.

S. G. M.
Madras.

Despd.
K.M
28-5-45

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[Return this to me after despatch]
28/5/45

Submitted.
29.5.45

Meeting held. Await copy of proceeds.
from SSM.

9/6/45

D. O. No 830/11/45

Government Museum,
Madras, 6th June 1945.

Dear Sir,

The proposed meeting will be held on the 9th instant at 5 P.M. in the Museum Theatre. The agenda will include preliminary discussions, an inspection of the galleries and examination of the plans for ~~the~~ improvements to the existing accommodation.

Yours sincerely,
A. Aiyappan
Superintendent.

C.O. Coorey Esq., I.C.S.,
Dy. Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Department,
Fort St. George.

Encl: 'Handy Guide' showing arrangements
as in 1942.

D.T.C.

Dr Cousin's post card giving ~~showing~~ the directions to his residence is also sent herewith. C.A.

MEMORANDUM OF THE PRESENT CONDITION AND NEEDS IN THE NEAR FUTURE OF THE MADRAS MUSEUM.

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Short History.

In the year 1846 the Madras Branch of the Asiatic So Society presented to the Government their collections, chiefly of geological material "stipulating for the formation of a museum", for which the scientists of the day had been making sporadic efforts as early as 1819. The scheme for a central museum was sanctioned on August 14, 1851, the collections which formed its nucleus were housed in the old college at Fort St. George, and Assistant Surgeon Edward Balfour was placed in charge of it. The Governor in Council was of opinion "that the Central Museum at the Presidency should combine the objects of a museum of Natural History, for which the specimens from the Mineral, Vegetable and Animal Kingdom, and those of Machinery, Manufacture and Sculptures already collected admirably serve as a commencement." The Government appealed to all their officers and to members of the public to assist in the development of the institution and also allowed things to be sent to the museum free of postage. In response to this appeal donations poured in and very soon they had to be checked as the building got over crowded. By 1853 there were over 15,000 specimens in geology, natural history, machinery, manufactures, sculptures, models, the plastic arts and "Numismatology." As the collections accumulated, the museum began to publish scientific monographs, the first of them being "Marbles of the Madras Presidency" by Balfour; others in the same series were "Iron Ores," "Coals of S. India, at Cuttack, Ameerkunteek, Nerbuddah and "Abrasive and Grinding Materials." In 1854 the collections were shifted to the present site. During the next year, museums were established at six district headquarters, all of them affiliated to the central institution at Madras and working under the general guidance of the officer-in-charge.

The popularity of the museum in those early days was beyond even the wildest hopes of its promoters. In the first half-year of 1854 there were 74,341 visitors as against about 40,000 of the whole of the previous year. Balfour thought that the enjoyment which the museum provided to the thousands of illiterates among the visitors was in itself adequate return for the money spent on the institution."

Dr.Balfour was succeeded by Dr.Bidie. The museum entered on the second phase of its history in the eighties of the last century with the appointment of the late Dr.Edgar Thurston, C.I.E., as its first full time Superintendent. Having had experience of museum work before he came out to India, Thurston found it necessary to define at the outset the scope of the museum. The existing collections covered fields of varying extent in the different museum subjects: in Geology, for example, collections came from many parts of the world, while in Natural History they were mostly provincial. Balfour's opinion was that the three Presidency towns, Bombay Calcutta and Madras, should have museums with the widest possible scope. Thurston felt that, under existing conditions, financial and scientific, the gain in width, might easily be lost in depth and utility. Curators like Col.Hendley and Dr.Watt disagreed with this "parochial policy", as they termed it. It was however laid down them that Madras was to be a provincial museum in the strict sense of the term, and so it has remained with minor exceptions in a few cases where a deviation was necessary for the sake of comparison

comparison or for the special purpose of the elucidation of points which would be impossible without the introduction of a foreign object.

The collections in all the different sections of the museum enormously during Thurston's period of directorship. His earlier publications included an account of the Pearl and Chank Fisheries of Manaar and also a study of the Fauna of the Gulf of Manaar. He added to the collection of "Economic Products" used now in a large room and wrote on many topics of industrial interest. But his chief claim to fame rests on his contributions to the Ethnology of Southern India. His "Ethnographic Notes from Southern India" and the volumes of "Castes and Tribes of Southern India" will long be of use to workers in Anthropology. As a teacher of post-graduate students in Anthropology Thurston infected many Indians with enthusiasm for social sciences.

Dr.J.R.Henderson, C.I.E., the next Superintendent paid special attention to the proper organisation of the collections and their interpretations through descriptive catalogues essential but tedious work. He started the most important of the extra-mural activities of the museum, namely, making the exhibits afford instruction to the visitors through lectures. The system of demonstrations to teachers which he initiated still continues on more or less the same lines. Catalogues of pre-historic antiquities, copper plate grants, and parts of the coin collections were published during his regime.

Original research and the publication of the Museum Bulletins, temporarily suspended by Dr.Henderson were revived by Dr.Gravely. Not only do the Museum Bulletins aid in the prompt publication of the results of research work conducted at the museum butthey also bring to the Connemara Public Library a large number of periodicals from various parts of the world, which with its limited budget, no provincial museum could buy. The prestige which the Madras Museum enjoys today is largely due to the well got up bulletins published by it. The total number of publications issued by the Museum is about Ninety.

Staff: In the earlier days of the Museum, there were a Curator and an Assistant Curator, but about 1890 the Herbarium Keeper's post as added, then zoological, archaeological and numismatic assistants. There was from about 1896 a combined post of - librarian and personal assistant, but in 1920 the appointment was bifurcated. From 1926 there was an assistant to look after the Athropological collections. The post of an Archaeological Asst was sanctioned on a temporary basis from 1928, and it was made permanent in 1937.

COLLECTIONS.

The range of the existing collections is briefly indicated in the 'Handy Guide' of which copies have already been sent round. It has not been possible, due to lack of funds to make the Natural History Sections, Zoology, Botany, and Geology, more attractive than they are now. In this, Bombay has stolen a march over us, but Madras is poor and so is its Museum. What we lack in beauty and grandeur we make up by thoroughness. The flora and fauna of the Presidency are represented in as good a manner as simple glass cases and bottles will alow. Unfortunately, again geology suffers for want of general interest in the subject and for want of a geologist to look after the subject.

For the preparation of dioramas for Botany and Zoology the addition to the staff of a trained museum artist is highly desirable.

The Amaravati and other Buddhist Sculptures.

The whole gallery has to be completely rearranged; some of the sculptures having years ago been imbedded in the walls.

PICTURES.

The number of pictures in the Museum is only 315. Of these 241 were acquired after 1942. A part of this small collection of pictures was exhibited before 1942 in the small entrance hall in the rear block. The remaining pictures were kept in the reserve collections.

Dr.Gravely was of the opinion that with the existing resources in staff and money, the Museum cannot undertake the big task of acquiring pictures and organising a picture gallery for the Province. He felt that, if the school of Arts or some similar institution with a Staff of experts mooted the idea of a picture gallery, the Museum would have well-advised in making over the small collection that we have to such a body. Though we have waited long, no public body, interested in paintings has come into being to start a picture gallery for Madras.

therefore that the Museum should not let slip opportunities to acquire pictures. When the School of arts disposed of their duplicates of pictures, with the Government's permission we acquired a number of them. A friend of the Museum recently made us a present of sixteen pictures. To the best of my knowledge, the question of a picture gallery for Madras has not yet been seriously considered. I may add here that the Provincial Museums in Bombay and Lahore have picture galleries and that in the proposed National Museum at New Delhi, Fine Art" is a third section, Archaeology and Anthropology being the first two. The care of pictures and their proper exhibition and interpretation require special training and experience. The building to be used as a picture gallery should be carefully designed with arrangements to regulate humidity and temperature.

As a temporary arrangement I have considered the possibility of exhibiting pictures in two rooms we have upstairs of the Rear Buildings, one of which was being used as the Coin Room and the other as the Ethnology store room. The strong room proposed by me (P.6) will however have first to be got before this accommodation can be diverted to house pictures.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

The nucleus of the buildings was the small central hall in the rear block -- the entrance hall used as picture gallery and the skeleton room--. The Oriental Manuscript Library Hall came up in 1875 -6 and very minor additions were made in 1883-4 and 1892-3. The front buildings and the Library Block were completed in 1895, to which additions were made in 1903-4, 1907-8, and 1918-19. The present office block was completed in 1912-13, and extensions to the rear block, namely, the area numbered 5 in the plan in the Handy Guide, in 1914-15, and the mammals gallery in 1920-21. The Chemical Laboratory was built in 1936-37 and the latest extensions in 1939. Except the latest addition, which was specially planned for the exhibition of sculptures, the remaining buildings were added piece-meal in small instalments. The stranggling nature of the buildings makes watch and ward a matter of great difficulty. The lighting in many of the galleries is defective, instances of which I will point out during your inspection of the buildings. In the new buildings proposed these defects will have to be rectified.

Strong rooms for coins and reserve collection of bronzes. In G.O.No.Ms.763 of 1942 Government gave directions for the proper custody of bronzes. G.O.No.Ms. 1282 dated 30th August 1944 contains the rules approved by Government for the proper custody and care of the coin collections. The coins will have to be kept in coin cabinets of the recognised pattern of which a large number will have be got.

The present coin room (17 upstairs) being very unsatisfactory, I submitted proposals in 1941 to Government for the construction of a strong room, but because of war conditions they could not then be fully considered. An isolated building was then proposed, but the Consulting Archtect to the Government expressed the opinion that scattered and isolated buildings should as far as possible be avoided. We should consider the possibility of having the strong rooms for bronzes and coins in the north-eastern wing of the proposed Block B of the extensions which was sanctioned in G.O.No.346 of 6th February 1929.

Rebuilding the office block. The new extensions, as you will see, just so closely on the office building that light and air cut off from it. It is moreover completely overcrowded leaving little room for the storing of publications, records, and articles of general store. The restaurant and tiffin room facilities for the public and the museum and library staff are very inadequate. In his letter No.1323-1/37 dated 30th September 1937 Dr.Gravely sent up proposals for a new office building, but it still remains to be considered. My submission is that a very high priority should be given for this building also.

Watch and Ward. Some Indian Museums have armed guards to ensure the safety of valuables. With the sad of example of the Patna Museum which a few years ago lost all its collection of coins and jewellery through a daring burglary, we ought to be forewarned and consider my proposal that this Museum should have armed guard provided for the night patrol of the buildings.

Roads in the grounds Since it is highly desirable

to reduce dust affecting the exhibits, I feel that the dust nuisance will be considerably reduced if the roads on the grounds of the Museum should be tarred.

The problem of the illiterate visitor During normal pre-war times, over a thousand visitors used to come to the museum galleries every day. Regarding a very large percentage of these visitors who are illiterate and cannot read our labels the Report on Indian Museums said:-

> "...although the interior of the Museum was packed and produced the inevitable accompaniment of fingered glass, betel spit and dirty marks on the walls, one realized that this was one of the surest ways of interpreting the outside world to the masses of India. In this way and perhaps in the way alone can the illiterate visitor be given any conception of the world beyond his village or its nearest large town. His mental horizon cannot be expanded through the medium of books because of hisilliteracy, or even through the cinema because of his poverty, but the museum skilfully parades before him the accumulated treasures of a Province; though the interpretation of it is left to his native wit. We feel that one of the first requirements of the Indian Museums Movement isthe sympathetic study of the problem of the illiterate visitor"

The only way of dealing with this problem is the appointment ofGuide Lecturers or docents as they are called in U.S.A. Even in the London Museums the services of the docents are much appreciated by literate visitors. In reply to my recent enquiries, I am to say that the Nagpur Museum has already appointed a Guide Lecturer and that similar appointments are under consideration in Bombay. make the Museum more useful and interesting visitors by giving them the services Guide Lecturers.

Defects	Suggestion.
1) Pre-history and Anthropology Collections Very high congestion -Further collections being received. Exhibition cases unsatisfactory.	A New Block of buildings, Block B (See plan) sanctioned in G.O.346 of 6-2-1929. Funds should be made available for this as early as possible. This building will take the ground floor available for the expansion of the Library.
2) Bronze Galleries. Defective lighting Storage accommodation desirable.	Re-allignment of cases - More sky-lights - More room will be available if the Anthropological collections are shifted to Block B..
3) Amaravati and other Buddhist Sculptures. Some slabs set up in walls	Should be removed and exhibited under glass, as in British Museum.
4) Pictures Two small rooms not adequate for the existing collections of over 300 pictures	Will the present coin room and Ethnology store be suitable for a temporary picture gallery? Whether the Museum should undertake the purchase of pictures with a view to organise a regular picture gallery, which we do not have at present.
5) Natural History Sections. Not attractive because we do not have many habitat groups and no dioramas.	More storage spare needed to provide room for larger habitat groups. A Museum Artist is also badly needed.
6) Coin room Not strong. Safes not fitted with standard size coin cabinet pattern of drawers. Safes not adequate.	Coin room-suggested in Block B instead of an isolated strong room.
7. Office Block. Heavy congestion.	New and larger office building as in plan.
8. Watch and Ward. Not very efficient.	Armed guards may be considered.
9. Dust Nuisance.	Tarring of the roads in the grounds.
10. Illiterate Visitors	Appointment of Guide Lecturers.
11. Educational facilities.	Appointment of a Curator for Education - Proposal submitted to Government.

Copy of letter No.187-3/46 dated 2nd February 1946 from the Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras to the Secretary to Government, Education and Public Health Department, Madras.

Sub:- Committee to suggest improvements to the Museum - Report.

Ref:- G.O.No.Ms.665 Edn., dated 27th April 1945.

I have the honour to submit herewith the recommendations of the above committee signed by all the members thereof*.

The Committee met twice on 9th June 1945 and 21st January 1946, Mr.D.P.Roy Chowdhury being present at the second meeting by special invitation. To go into the questions about the reorganisation of the Amaravati Gallery, and the accommodation for reserve and duplicate collections, a special Sub Committee consisting of Mr.T.N.Ramachandran Mr.V.M.Narasimham and Dr.A.Aiyappan was appointed; this Sub Committee met on 25th June 1945 and its report was accepted by the Main Committee at its last meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1) The Committee is of opinion that a new block of buildings is quite necessary for housing the prehistoric and anthropological collections and coins and other valuables.

2) The Committee recommends that the west wing of the first floor of the Front Buildings may be reserved for bronzes, after lighting is improved in certain parts in which it is now unsatisfactory, and remodelling some of the cases so as to permit all the sides of the images being viewed by visitors.

3) The Committee recommends that the Amaravati gallery be rearranged after taking out the sculptures set in the walls. The details of the arrangement will be settled later by a Sub Committee consisting of Mr.T.N.Ramachandran, Mr.V.Narasimhan and Dr.A.Aiyappan (please see p.3.A)

4) The Committee is of opinion that the time has come for the creation of a picture gallery worthy of the metropolis of the Madras Province, illustrating the various phases of Oriental and Western painting.

While the foregoing is in process, the present coin room and ethnology store - room be made available after necessary alteration, for the exhibition of a selection of the paintings already in the Museum.

5) The Committee recommends that the Zoological galleries should be made more attractive by habitat groups. This will involve the engagement of a museum artist.

6) The Committee recommends the full electrification of the buildings, electrification of such parts as the reptile gallery downstairs, where natural lighting is not possible, being taken up first.

7) The Committee recommends the early revival of the post of Curator, Numismatic Section.

8) The Committee recommends that additional provision be made for reserve and duplicate collections, details of which will be worked out by the Sub Committee mentioned under item 3. (See p.3.B)

9) The Committee recommends that the road surfaces in the grounds of the Museum be made dust proof.

10) ASSISTANT CURATORS: The Committee feels that there is need for the appointment of two Assistant Curators to work as Guide Lecturers and to assist the Curators. The scale of pay suggested for the Assistant Curators is Rs.75-10/2-125.

QUALIFICATION: B.A. in History for the Assistant Curator to be attached to the Archaeological and Anthropological sections, and B.A. or B.Sc., in Natural Science for the Assistant Curator for the Natural Science Sections, with proficiency in Tamil and Telugu. The selected candidates should be given training for three months after appointment.

11). ART GALLERY: The Committee considers that the Victoria Technical Institute Building on the Pantheon Road is eminently suitable for being used as an Art Gallery provided the following suggestions are carried out:-

a) In the matter of pictures (1) along with other methods of acquisition of pictures, the idea of acquiring pictures through periodical exhibitions of the works of individual artists be fully explored;

the acquisition of pictures should be made through a representative expert committee consisting of nominees of the Victoria Technical Institute Council and nominees of the Government.

b) An officer of gazetted rank, borne on the establishment of the Government Museum, with sufficient experience of art galleries generally and of running exhibitions and with administrative and organising ability, on a salary in the scale of Rs.250-350 (initial pay to be fixed according to qualifications) should be appointed to be in full administrative charge of the Art Gallery;

c) The following funds should be set apart for initial and recurring expenditure, solely for the acquisition of exhibits; Initial expenditure Rs.200,000 /- recurring expenditure, Rs.20,000/- annually.

d) The officer in charge of the Art Gallery should be given an adequate establishment consisting (1) of an Assistant (pay Rs.100-10/2-200) with knowledge of publicity matters and (2) clerks and menials.

1. Sd) C.O.Coorey, Esq. Chairman
2. O.M.Narasimhan 2-2-46
3. " V.R.Ramachandra Dikshitar.
4. " Dr.Cousins*
   Read at 11.30.A.M. on the 2nd Feb.'46
5. " T.R.Ramachandran 2-2-46.

P.T.O.

6. (sd) Mr.R.Janardhanan
   2.II.46
7. " A. Aiyappan (Convener)

* Except the minutes of the last meeting, which he did not attend.

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM.

PROPOSALS FOR ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE ETC OF VALUABLE OBJECTS.

1 Can exhibition and storage of Valuables be treated separately from exhibition and storage of Non-Valuables? Will not the problems of valuables and non-valuables have to be considered together?

2 (a) Which are the sections of the Museum and the classes of the of the objects that would be affected ?
(b) Are the proposals general and in regard to all material in all the sections ?

3 (a) Which are the objects in the various sections of the Museum that would be considered valuable?
(b) Can any principles be formulated for the determination of what are valuable, or are rough and ready tests alone possible?
(c) Will a separate list of valuables be maintained ?

4 (a) How far does the present distribution of the exhibits of the same section in different parts of the building affect the responsibility of the officer or officers responsible for maintenace and safety ?
(b) How will each officer be held to his responsibitlity if there ould be difficulty in working it ?
(c) Is a reallocation of spaces possible, to secure better mainte-nce and more certain safety?
(d) Any proposals for periodical ~~check~~ inspection for maintenance and for check? w could they be related to regular maintenace and safety?

a) What are the difficulties encountered in the past?
(b) What are the measures taken in the past for obviating the difficulties
(c) How have they worked and how are they proposed to be revised?
(d) What would the immediate measures be? What the next ones?

Will not a collection of relevant previous papers be useful?

C.M. Narasimhan 9/11

RESOLUTIONS recorded at the meeting of the Committee held on Saturday, 9th June 1945, with all the members present, except Mr. V.R.R. Dikshitar.

---

1. The Committee is of opinion that a new block of buildings is quite necessary for housing the prehistoric and anthropological collections and coins and other valuables.

2. The Committee recommends that the west wing of the first floor of the Front Buildings may be reserved for bronzes, after lighting is improved in certain parts in which it is now unsatisfactory.

3. The Committee recommends that the Amaravati gallery be rearranged after taking out the sculptures set in the walls. The details of the arrangement will be settled later by a Sub-Committee consisting of Mr. T.N. Ramachandran, Mr. V.Narasimhan and Dr. A. Aiyappan.

4. The Committee is of opinion that the time has come for the creation of a picture gallery worthy of the metropolis of the Madras Province, illustrating the various phases of Indian painting, ancient and modern, together with examples of allied schools such as Persia, Tibet, China and Japan.

While the foregoing is in process, the present coin room and ethnology store room be made available after necessary alterations for the exhibition of the selection of paintings already in the Museum.

5. The Committee recommends that the zoological

galleries should be made more attractive by habitat groups. This will involve the engagement of a museum artist.

6. The Committee recommends the full electrification of the buildings, electrification of such parts as the reptile gallery (where natural lighting is not possible), downstairs being taken up first.

7. The Committee recommends the early revival of the post of Curator of the Numismatic Section.

8. The Committee recommends that additional provision of accommodation be made for reserve and duplicate collections, details of which will be worked out by the Sub-Committee mentioned under item 3.

9. The Committee recommends that the road surfaces in the grounds of the Museum be made dust-proof.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting after most of the collections have been brought back and after Dr. Cousin's return to Madras during August.

Government Museum,
Madras, 7th August 1945

Dear Sir,

Reference G.O.No.Ms.665 Edn. dated 27th April 1945.

35569

8 AUG 1945

I am sending you herewith the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 9th June'45 and also the recommendations of the sub-committee regarding resolutions 3 and 8.

Yours sincerely,
A. Aiyappan
7/8/45

14 AUG 1945

C.O. Coorey, Esq.,
Deputy Secretary to Govt.
Education and Public Health Dept.
Madras.

14 AUG 1945
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

A2 may see.

14/8/45
A2

13/8

11-8-45

el.

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Saturday 9th June 1945 with all the members present except Mr. V.R.R. Dikshitar.

Resolutions.

1. The Committee is of opinion that a new block of buildings is quite necessary for housing the prehistoric and anthropological collections and coins and other valuables.

2. The Committee recommends that the west wing of the first floor of the Front Buildings may be reserved for bronzes, after lighting is improved in certain parts in which it is now unsatisfactory, and remodelling some of the cases so as to permit all the sides of the images being viewed by visitors.

3. The Committee recommends that the Amaravati gallery be re-arranged after taking out the sculptures set in the walls. The details of the arrangement will be settled later by a Sub-Committee consisting of - - Mr. T.N. Ramachandran, Mr.V. Narasimham and Dr. A.Aiyappan.

4. The Committee is of opinion that the time has come for the creation of a picture gallery worthy of the metropolis of the Madras Province, illustrating the various phases of Indian painting, ancient and modern, (together with examples of allied schools such as Persia, Tibet, China and Japan).

   While the foregoing is in process, the present coin room and ethnology store room be made available after necessary alteration for the exhibition of a selection of the paintings already in the Museum.

5. The Committee recommends that the Zoological galleries should be made more attractive by habitat groups. This will involve the engagement of a museum artist.

6. The Committee recommends the full electrification of the buildings, electrification of such parts as the reptile gallery downstairs where natural lighting is not possible being taken up first.

7. The Committee recommends ~~that additional~~ the early revival of the post of Curator of the Numismatic Secti

8. The Committee recommends that additional provision be made for reserve and duplicate collections, details o which will be worked out by the Sub-Committee mentio ed under item 3.

9. The Committee recommends that the road surfaces in th grounds of the Museum be made dust-proof.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting after most of the collections have been brought back and after Dr.Cousin' return to Madras during August.

A. Aiyappan

Convener of the Committee.

Recommendations of the Sub-Committee which met on Monday 25th June 1945 at 4 p.m. all the members being present.

Reorganisation of the Amaravati gallery.

1. The Amaravati gallery is now over-crowded. All the sculptures in the walls should be removed from their present setting(because of the presence of salts in most of them) and re-assembled after chemical treatment, care being taken to arrange the sculptures, according to periods. The rail should be re-aligned east to west to admit light falling on it, and both this and the base of the drum should also be re-arranged to make them more like the original. The smaller sculptures from Amaravati and other places and the surplus which cannot go into the Amaravati room should be exhibited in the extensions of the Buddhist gallery (Oriental Manuscript Library Hall). The pit near the re-constructed rail in the Amaravati room may be filled up after removing the sculptures. Duplicates should be weeded out and stored in the Archaeological godown.

2. The Committee considered how best to use the lecture room attached to the Oriental Manuscript Library Hall and is of opinion that it should be utilised for Museum lectures and meetings of learned bodies such as the Archaeological Society of Southern India. Because of the very frequent engagements in the Museum theatre it is becoming increasingly difficult to arrange such lectures and meetings in the Theatre. Electric lights and fans should be provided.

3. Apropos the proposals for the re-arrangement of the Buddhist galleries and the need for models in these and other galleries of the Museum,the Committee feels that there is need for a modeller and urges the appointment of an artist-modeller. A re-constructed model of the Amaravati Stupa should be placed in the Amaravati gallery to serve as a key to the exhibits.

Accommodation for reserve and duplicate collections.

Reserve collections should be housed in well-lighted and well ventilated storage rooms where they can be seen and studied. The existing godowns are unsuitab for keeping anything of value and can in the opinion of the Sub-committee, be used, after improvements suc as the provision of exhaust fans, electric lighting and making the floor damp proof, for storing furniture and other miscellaneous articles. The space between the Oriental Manuscript Hall and the present godown i recommended to be utilised for the construction of a low terraced godown to be used as an archaeological godown. This may run the whole length of the Geological gallery,should be made damp-proof,and the height should be up to the level of the window sills of the Geological gallery.

A similar godown may be constructed on the wester side of the Geological galleries.

The reserve collections of the Zoological and Botanical collections may be housed in the space that will be available by the addition of an upper storey to the stuffing room block.

In the block B of the proposed extensions to the Museum buildings, it is essential that cellar accommodation should be provided for taking in relevant reserve and duplicate collections.

R. Aiyappan

Convener.

(20) 37

D.O. No. 1352-1/45

Government Museum,
Madras, 29th August 1945.

28426

Dear Sir,

Owing to the delays in getting railway wagons and in the elaborate arrangements necessary in bringing back the valuables to the Museum, only the consignment from Cuddapah has reached us. Very essential work in the galleries has not yet been carried out by the P.W.D. and Government orders have not yet been received in the matter. Re-arrangement of the galleries tends to take more time than I anticipated. For these reasons, I find it will not be possible to arrange for a meeting of the Museum Improvements Committee until late in October.

A

Yours sincerely,
A. Aiyappan

To

C.O. Coorey, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department,
Madras.

Education & P.H. Dept.

A above
The further communication be awaited.

W/ 30-8 ws

CC 1/9/45

Ask SGM at what stage the matter of arranging the exhibits etc now is & when the next meeting may be held.

23/10/45

~~4752/45~~

14/25/x

C6/2A

(21) 39 L.Sn. & P.S. dept
A.

Memo. No. 38426A/45 L.Sn. dated 24/10/45

Sub: Government Museum. Rearrangement of exhibits. Report.

C. No. 38426 GF 37 Ref:- your D.O. No. 1352-1/45 dated 29.8.45

The S.G.M. is requested to report the stage at which the matter of re-arrangement of exhibits stands and to say when the next meeting of the Museum Committee will be held.

24/10/45

To:
The S.G.M.

26/10/45

26/10

~~38426-A. M.2.~~
~~27.10.45.~~

A/D.S. (22) 41

C.F. 32 (a).

..................Department

From (Name) Sri A.Aiyappan, M.A., Ph.D.,

Designation Superintendent, Government Museum,

Station Madras.

Received..........Registered..........

To

The Secretary to Government, Education and Public Health Department, Madras.

Enclosures:

No. 1352-2/45 dated 6th November 1945.

6 - NOV 1945

50493

Sir,

Sub: Government Museum- Re-arrangement of exhibits - Report.

P 39 ante

Reference Government Memorandum No.38426-A/45-1 Education dated 24th October 1945.

The last batch of the articles sent away to the interior was received on 18th October 1945. A good part of the re-arrangement has already been done, but owing to various inevitable difficulties, particularly in getting materials in the market, and also the services of carpenters, it will not be possible to complete the re-arrangement before the middle of December,45. The Executive Engineer, A.R.P. Division has been specially requested to complete his work expeditiously. The Stuffing Room Block which was used by the A.R.P. Depot as a kitchen has to undergo

several

42

several structural alterations to house parts of the reserve collections in Zoology.

As the Committee has to be given at its next meeting a clear idea of the pre-war state of the Museum, I would submit that it will be best to hold the meeting after the 15th of December 1945. I shall meanwhile ascertain a date suitable to the members of the Committee.

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

A. Aiyappan
5.XI.45
Superintendent.

[illegible]

Submitted for perusal. For orders whether this may lie over till 1.12.45
9.11.45

Yes

Ex. R on 4.12.45

No. 2083-2/45
55546

Government Museum,
Madras, 5-12-45.

6 - DEC 1945

REPLY.

To The Deputy Secretary to Govt.
Education & Public Health Deptt

Sir,

The re-arrangement of the exhibits in the galleries will be completed by the third week of December 1945, except in the Geological gallery. The P.W.D. is expediting their part of the work, but owing to the non-availability of glass, it has been found impossible to replace the plywood in the sky-lights of the Front Building, parts of which, consequently, are very ill-lighted now. Owing to the pressure of other work, I have not been able to arrange the coins properly in the coin room. This work has to be done by me alone personally in the absence of the Curator, Numismatic Section. I feel, however, that the meeting of the Committee need not wait till this work is done. I have accordingly requested Dr. Cousins to let me know of a convenient date early in January next for the meeting of the Committee.

A. Aiyappan
5.12
Superintendent.

83 ~~A~~

C.F. 98

Edn & PH DEPARTMENT.

REMINDER. Education Branch.

To THE Superintendent
Government Museum.

I ~~have the honour to invite~~ am directed to invite ~~invite~~ attention to

No. 38426 A/45-1 dated 24-10-45 and

~~to request that the reply to it may be expedited~~.

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

(1) the stage at which the matter now is, and

(2) the date by which a reply may be expected, ~~and~~

(3) ~~the circumstances which have caused the~~ delay.

Clarence O Coorey 3/12/45
Signature.

Office Secretariat

Station Madras.

Deputy Secy to Govt.
Designation.

Dated 3/12/45.

3/12

3.12.45

SUBJECT.

Government Museum – Re-arrangement of exhibits. Report.

P.T.O.

2140

D.O.No. 2117-1/45

A/O.S

24

Government Museum,
Madras, 11th December 1945.

Dear Sir,

Subject: Meeting of the Committee to suggest improvements for the Museum.

12 DEC 1945

56516

Reference Memorandum No.38426-A/45-1 Edn dated 24th October 1945.

Dr. J. H. Cousins informs me that he will be in Madras till the end of February 1946. I shall therefore be much obliged if you will let me know if you will find it convenient if I fix Saturday the 12th January 1946 at 4.30 p.m. for the meeting of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A. Aiyappan 11.12.45

To
C.O. Coorey, Esqr., I.C.S.

Edn & P H dept
A.

Submitted for orders. May the reply be that the 12th January '46 (Saturday) is suitable?

12/12. 12.12.45

Yes.

13/12/45

A draft D.O. is submitted

13/12. 13.12.45

~~Edn~~ & P H dept
A

D.O. No. 38426A/45-2. Edn. 14/12/45 e. No. 38426

47

Dear Dr. Aiyappan,

Sub: Government Museum - Meeting of the Committee to suggest improvements for the Museum.

Ref:- Your D.O. No. 2117-1/45 of 11.12.45

The date proposed for the next meeting of the Committee, 12th January '46 is suitable. ~~to me~~.

13/12 13.12.45

14/12/45

To

Dr. A. Aiyappan,
M.A.; Ph.D.,
S. G. M.,
Madras

Fair copy kept below.
F. C. appd

14/12

Government Museum,
Madras, 4 Jany 46.

To Members of the Committee.
~~Dear~~

Sub: Meeting of the Committee to suggest improvements to the Museum.

Ref. My letter No.2171- /45 dated 19-12-'45

JAN 1946

Since the date suggested in my last letter is not suitable to Mr. T. N. Ramachandran, I have again to request you to let me know whether Monday 21st January 1946 at 4 p.m. will suit you for a meeting of our Committee.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd) A. Aiyappan

~~To~~ ~~Sri~~

Copy for information to C. O. Coorey Esq. M.B.E. I.C.S

A. Aiyappan

Edn. & P.H. dept.
A.

Submitted for orders. May the reply be that 21st January 46 (Monday) is suitable? If so the draft below is for approval.

5/1/46.

5.1.46

Education & P.H.Department.
A. No.38426.

D.O.No. 38426 A/45-3 Edn., dated. 8/1/46

Dear Dr.Aiyappan,

Sub:- Government Museum - Meeting of the Committee to suggest improvements for the Museum.
Ref:- Your Ref.nil dated 4th January '46. P.49 (c)

The altered date suggested for the next meeting of the Committee, 21st January 1946 is suitable.

5/1/46 5.1.46

8.1.46

8/1/46

To
Dr.A.Aiyappan,
M.A., Ph.D.,
S.G.M.,Madras.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Public (Special) Department.

Ref.- G.O.1070, Finance, dated 8th October 1945.

LEAVE - Enhancement of existing limits on accumulation of leave under Civil Service Regulations and Revised Leave Rules (Madras Leave Rules), 1933, and relaxation of Fundamental Rule 81(b) (ii).

ENDORSEMENT No.2412/45-2, dated the 31st December 1945.

--

Communicated to the officers concerned.

J.B. BROWN,
Chief Secretary to Govt.

To
The Officers concerned. (all I.C.S. officers of Asiatic Domicile and 'Listed' post holders, both on the Executive & Judicial sides).

Forwarded/By order

vjr.31. Superintendent.

No. 2171-B/45

From Dated, 11th Jany 1946.
Dr.A.Aiyappan,M.A.,Ph.D.,
Superintendent,Government Museum,
Madras.

To
The Members of the Committee.

Dear Sri,

Reference my letter ~~No.2171/45~~ dated 4th January 1946.

A **meeting** of the Committee will be held on Monday 21st January 1946 at 4 p.m. at "Museum House"(Superintendent's Quarters).

The agenda for the meeting is given below.

1936.

Yours sincerely,
A. Aiyappan
11.1.46

To Mr C. O. Coorey Esq. M.B.E. I.C.S. (P.T.O)

54

AGENDA

1. Consideration of the report of the Sub_Committee
2. Further consideration of the Recommendation about the Picture Gallery. Mr.D.P. Roy Chowdhur has been specially requested to attend in connection with this.
3. The appointment of a Guide Lecturer.

Edn & P H Dept
A

Submitted for perusal

Put up on 24/1 in a blue pad.

11/1/46 11.1.46

12/1/46 Submitted

19/1/46

Post copy of Telephonic Message dated 15-1-46.

55

From The Deputy Secretary to Government, Education & Public Health Department, Madras.

291

To The Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras.

3177

16 JAN 1946

Please say whether the proposed extensions to the Museum Buildings include provision for an Arts gallery. Please let me also have your views on the suggestion to use therefor the V.T.I. building - Pantheon Road - the gallery to be placed under the control of the V.T.I. Council. This point may be discussed at the meeting on 21st January 1946.

--

Copy communicated to all members of the Committee.

To C.O. Coorey, Esqr., M.B.E., I.C.S.
Deputy Secretary to Govt. for information A. Aiyappan

Edn. & P.H.
(A)

Submitted for perusal.

19/1/46

W
19.1.46

No. 182-1/46

Government Museum,
Madras, 2[illegible] January 1946.

Dear sir,

I send you herewith for your approval the draft of the minutes of our last meeting.

I am getting ready the final report, which, before submission to Government, should, I presume, be signed by all the members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,
A. Aiyappan 24.1.46
Superintendent.

4909

C.O. Coorey Esq., M.B.E., I.C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Department,
Madras.

Edn. & P.H. Dept (A)

~~May be filed~~

29/1/46

Encl. I

(31) 59/ Ltr G. P. H. dept
A.

D. O. 38426A/45-4 ~~Ln~~dated 30/1/46

Dear Dr. Aiyappan,

Sub:- Museum - Government - Final report of the last meeting.

p 57 CF

Ref:- Your D.O. No. 187-1/46 of 26.1.46

Your presumption ~~to get~~ that the final rep should be signed by ~~all~~ the members of the Committee before its submission to Government is correct. Please submit ~~it~~ it as soon as possible before 3/2/feb.

I enclose the copy of your draft of the minutes together with a ~~[illegible]~~ draft as revised by me which may be adopted and circulated to the members for signature.

30/1/feb

To
Dr. A. Aiyappan, M.A. Ph.D.,
S. G. M.
Madras.

30/1/46

despd
30/1/46

(with encls; orgl. draft minutes, revised & draft minutes of DS)

32 61

From (Name) Sri A.Aiyappan M.A., Ph.D.,
Designation. Superintendent, Government Museum,
Station. Madras.

To
The Secretary to Government
Education and Public Health
Department,
Madras.

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
3 - FEB 1946
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

No. 187-3/46 dated, 2nd. February 1946.

6619

Sir,

Committee to suggest improvements to the Museum - Report. (B)

Reference G.O.No.Ms.665 Edn., dated 27th April 1945.

I have the honour to submit herewith the recommendations of the above committee signed by all the members thereof.

The Committee met twice on 9th June 1945 and 21st January 1946, Mr. D.P. Roy Chowdhury being present at the second meeting by special invitation. To go into the questions about the re-organisation of the Amaravati Gallery, and the accommodation for reserve and duplicate collections, a special Sub-Committee consisting of Mr.T.N.Ramachandran ~~and~~ Mr. V.M. Narsimhan and Dr.A.Aiyappan was appointed; this Sub-Committee met on 25th June 1945 and its report was accepted by the main Committee at its last meeting.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. Aiyappan
Convener of the Committee.

End. 6 sheets including three originals of approved minutes.

Pldd

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. The Committee is of opinion that a new block of buildings is quite necessary for housing the prehistoric and anthropological collections and coins and other valuables.

2. The Committee recommends that the west wing of the first floor of the Front Buildings may be reserved for bronzes, after lighting is improved in certain parts in which it is now unsatisfactory, and remodelling some of the cases so as to permit all the sides of the images being viewed by visitors.

3. The Committee recommends that the Amaravati gallery be rearranged after taking out the sculptures set in the walls. The details of the arrangement will be settled later by a Sub-Committee consisting of Mr.T.N. Ramachandran, Mr.V. Narasimhan and Dr.A.Aiyappan. (please see p. 3,A.)

4. The Committee is of opinion that the time has come for the creation of a picture gallery worthy of the metropolis of the Madras Province, illustrating the various phases of Oriental and Western painting.

   While the foregoing is in process, the present coin room and ethnology store - room be made available, after necessary alteration, for the exhibition of a selection of the paintings already in the Museum.

5. The Committee recommends that the Zoological galleries should be made more attractive by habitat groups. This will involve the engagement of a museum artist.

6. The Committee recommends the full electrification of the buildings, electrification of such parts as the reptile gallery downstairs, where natural lighting is not possible, being taken up first.

Action taken

7. ✓ The Committee recommends the early revival of the post of Curator, Numismatic Section.

8. The Committee recommends that additional provision be made for reserve and duplicate collections, details of which will be worked out by the Sub-Committee mentioned under item 3. (see p. 3,B)

9. ✓ The Committee recommends that the road surfaces in the grounds of the Museum be made dust-proof.

10. ASSISTANT CURATORS. The Committee feels that there is need for the appointment of two Assistant Curators to work as Guide Lecturers and to assist the Curators. The scale of pay suggested for the Assistant Curators is Rs.75-10/2-125.

    A.

    Qualification: B.A., in History for the Assistant Curator to be attached to the Archaeological and Anthropological sections, and B.A., ~~for~~ or B.Sc., in Natural Science for the Assistant Curator for the Natural Science Sections, with proficiency in Tamil and Telugu. The seledted candidates should be given training for three months after appointment.

11. ART GALLERY. The Committee considers that the Victoria Technical Institute Building on the Pantheon Road is eminently suitable for being used as an Art Gallery provided the following suggestions are carried out:-

    (a) In the matter of pictures (1) along with other methods of acquisition of pictures, the idea of acquiring pictures through periodical exhibitions of the works of individua
    artists be fully explored;

11.(contd)

(2) the acquisition of pictures should be made through a representative expert committee consisting of nominees of the Victoria Technical Institute Council and nominees of the Government;

(b) an officer of gazetted rank, borne on the establishment of the Government Museum, with sufficient experience of art galleries generally and of running exhibitions and with administrative and organising ability, on a salary in the scale of Rs.250-350 (initial pay to be fixed according to qualifications) should be appointed to be in full administrative charge of the Art Gallery;

(c) the following funds should be set apart for initial and recurring expenditure, solely for the acquisition of exhibits : Initial expenditure Rs.200,000/-; recurring expenditure, Rs.20,000/- annually;

(d) the officer in charge of the Art Gallery should be given an adequate establishment consisting (1) of an Assistant (pay Rs.100-10/2-200) with knowledge of publicity matters and (2) of clerks and menials.

1. (Sd) C. O. Coorey Esq. , Chairman.
2. C. M. Narasimhan 2/2/46
3. V. R. Ramachandra Dikshitar
4. (Sd) Dr. Cousins*
5. T. N. Ramachandran 2.2.46 Read at 11.30 A.M. on the 2nd Feb. '46
6. (Sd) Mr. R. Janardhanam R Janardhanam 2.II.'46
7. A. Aiyappan. (Convener)

*Except the minutes of the last meeting, which he did not attend.

Recommendations made by the Special ~~Sxx~~ Sub-Committee and approved by the Committee.

A. REORGANISATION OF THE AMARAVATI GALLERY.

1. The Amaravati gallery is now over-crowded. All the sculptures in the walls should be removed from their present setting (because of the presence of salts in most of them) and re-assembled after chemical treatment, care being taken to arrange the sculptures according to periods. The rail should be re-aligned east to west to admit light falling on it, and both this and the base of the drum should also be re-arranged to make them more like the original. The smaller sculptures from Amaravati and other places and the surplus which cannot go into the Amaravati room should be exhibited in the extensions of the Buddhist gallery (Oriental Manuscript Library Hall). The pit near the re-constructed rail in the Amaravati room may be filled up after removing the sculptures. Duplicates should be weeded out and stored in the Archaeological godown.

2. The Committee considered how best to use the lecture room attached to the Oriental Manuscript Library Hall and is of opinion that it should be utilised for Museum lectures and meetings of learned bodies such as the Archaeological Society of Southern India. Because of the very frequent engagements in the Museum theatre it is ~~becomingly~~ becoming increasingly ~~different~~ difficult to arrange such lectures and meetings in the Theatre. Electric lights and fans should be provided.

3. Apropos the proposals for the re-arrangement of the Buddhist galleries and the need for models in these and other galleries of the Museum, the Committee feels that there is need for a modeller and urges the appointment of an artist-modeller. A re-constructed model of the Amaravati Stupa should be placed in the Amaravati gallery to serve as a key to the exhibits.

B. ACCOMMODATION FOR RESERVE AND DUPLICATE COLLECTIONS.

Reserve collections should be housed in well-lighted and well-ventilated storage rooms where they can be seen and studied. The existing godowns are unsuitable for keeping anything of value and can in the opinion of the Sub-Committee, be used, after improvements such as the provision of exhaust fans, electric lighting and making the floor damp proof, for storing furniture and other misecellaneous articles. The space between the Oriental Manuscript Hall and the present godown is recommended to be utilised for the construction of a low terraced godown to be used as an archaeological godown. This may run the whole length of the Geological Gallery, should be made damp-proof, and the height should be up to the level of the window sills of the Geological gallery.

A similar godown may be constructed on the western side of the Geological galleries.

The reserve collections of the Zoological and Botanical collections may be housed in the space that will be available by the addition of an upper ~~xxxx~~ storey to the stuffing room block.

In the block B of the proposed extensions to the Museum buildings, it is essential that cellar accommodation should be provided for taking in relevent reserve and duplicate collections.

(sd) T.N. Ramachandran
" V.M.Narashimhan
" A.Aiyappan

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21st January 1946.

...

Members present:

1. Mr. C.O.Coorey.
2. Mr. V.R.R.Dikshitar.
3. Mr. R.Janardhanam Naidu.
4. Mr. T.N.Ramachandran.
5. Mr. D.P. Roy Chowdhury (by special invitation)
6. Dr. A.Aiyappan.

2. The special Sub-Committee's report about the reorganisation of the Amaravati Gallery and accommodation for reserve and duplicate collections was accepted.

3. ASSISTANT CURATORS: The Committee feels that there is need for the appointment of two Assistant Curators to work as guide lecturers and to assist the Curators. The scale of pay suggested for the Assistant Curators is Rs.75-10/2-125. Qualification: B.A. in History for the Assistant Curator to be attached to the Archaeological and Anthropological sections, and B.A. or B.Sc. in Natural Science for the Assistant Curator for the Natural Science sections, with proficiency in Tamil and Telugu. The selected candidates should be given training for three months after appointment. Z

4. ART GALLERY: The Committee considers that the Victoria Technical Institute Building on the Pantheon Road is eminently suitable for being used as an Art Gallery provided the following suggestions are carried out:

(a) In the matter of pictures, (1) along with other methods of acquisition of pictures, the idea of acquiring pictures through periodical exhibitions of the works of individual artists be fully explored;

(2) the acquisition of pictures should be made through a representative expert committee consisting of nominees of the Victoria Technical Institute Council and nominees of the Government;

(b) an officer of gazetted rank, borne on the establishment of the Government Museum, with sufficient experience of art galleries generally and of running exhibitions and with administrative and organising ability, on a salary in the scale of Rs.250-350(initial pay to be fixed according to qualifications) should be appointed to be in full administrative charge of the Art Gallery;

(c) the following funds should be set apart for initial and recurring expenditure, solely for the acquisition of Exhibits:- Initial expenditure Rs.200,000; recurring expenditure, Rs.20,000 annually.

(d) the officer in charge of the Art Gallery should be given an adequate establishment consisting (1) of an Assistant (pay 100-10/2-200) with knowledge of publicity matters, and (2) of clerks and menials.

5. The Committee resolved to amend resolution No.4 passed at its first meeting to include western art in the scope of the picture gallery. The amended resolution is as follows:

P.T.O.

20

-2-

The Committee is of opinion that the time has come for the creation of a picture ~~an Art~~ gallery worthy of the metropolis of the Madras Province, illustrating the various phases of Oriental and Western painting.

While the foregoing is in process, the present coin room and ethnology store room be made available, after necessary alterations for the exhibition of the selection of paintings already in the Museum.

...oOo...

30/1/46

- 31.1.46

V. R. Ramachandra Dikshitar 1-2-46

T. M. Narasimhan 2.2.46

Received at 11.30 A.M on the 2nd Feb 1946

~~T. N. Ramachandran~~ 2.2.46

R. Janardhanan (2. II. 1946)

A. Aiyappan 2. 2. 1946

15/11

Education & P.H.Department.(A)
C.No. 38426.A.

71

Letter No. 38426 A/45-5 Edn.dated. 8/2/46.

To

Despd 1057 11-2-46

The Convener, Museum Committee,
Madras.

Sir,

Sub:-- Museum - Government - Improvements to the Museum.
Ref:-- From the Convener, No.187-3/46 dated 2-2-46.

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p. 61 ante

I am directed to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of recommendations of the Committee.

Cf [illegible] on 11/4/46

8.2.46

8/2/46

Note:--

The recommendations will be examined separately.

pp 61-65 ante

8/2/46 8.2.46

8/2/46

72

Est P.H (C2)

G.O. 35 Edn., dated 7-1-41 required for this file has been called for from M.R.O. Chittoor and a number of G.Os. have been called for from C.R.B.

This may lie over till 8-3-46

SR
1/3/46

Cva
4-3-46

5.3.46

73

Madras Record Office,
Chittoor, 4th April '46.

D.O.No.717 DI/46-1

APR 1946

Dear Mr.Viswanatha Ayyar,

Government Museum - Improvement of

With reference to our conversation on the 2nd instant kindly send me the current file so that I may collect all the papers relevent to the subject from about 1850 down to the present. As desired by you I shall study the papers after they are collected and submit a note showing at a glance the nature and history of the various proposals made from time to time for the improvement of the Museum.

Yours sincerely,

Baliga

P.S.Viswanatha Ayyar Esq.,I.C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department,
Fort St.George,MADRAS.

75 C2

This relates to the file about the improvements to the Museum. [illegible] and I agree with him, but it will be better if he is asked to prepare a note on the subject at once with reference to the reasons, instead of the recommendations being sent here from the R.O. The proceedings are voluminous. Send him the c.f. u.o. & ask him to prepare a note and send it at an early date.

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
5 - APR 1946
18647
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

A draft u.o. note is submitted for approval
8.4.46
P.u.d

C.F. 32. (39)

Department	Received — Registered
From (Name) Sri A.Aiyappan,M.A.,Ph.D., Designation Superintendent, Government Museum, Station Egmore, Madras, 8.	To The Secretary to Government, Education and Public Health Department, Fort St.George, Madras.

Enclosures: No. 187-4/46 dated 14th June 1946.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
14 JUN 1946

31738

Sir,

Subject: Artist-modeller - Proposal for post of.

Re: Recommendations of the Museum Committee

Reference my letter No.187-3/46 dated 2nd February 1946.

The Committee to suggest improvements to the Museum made the following recommendations at its meeting held on the 21st January 1946 on the subject of the appointment of an Artist-Modeller for this Museum:

"5. The Committee recommends that the Zoological galleries should be made more attractive by habitat groups. This will involve the engagement of a museum artist".

The habitat groups will require the services of a trained artist who can paint the background and model the objects, that will constitute the replica of the natural environment of the animal selected for exhibition in the group.

The artist-modeller will be useful in making plaster casts of bronzes and sculptures, for sale to the public. Plaster copies of masterpieces of sculptures are sold in important European Museums, and there is every indication that there will be demand for copies of some of our unique sculptures in stone and metal.

I have the honour therefore to request that Government will be pleased to accept the recommendation of the Committee for the appointment of an Artist-modeller for this Museum.

The salary suggested for the post is Rs.75-10/2-125. This scale is not high enough for a really good artist, but it is hoped that the security and other attractions of Government service will induce suitabl candidates to apply for it.

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

A. Aiyappan
14/6/46
Superintendent.

E.P.H.
C2

The consideration of the recommendations of the Committee referred to above ~~has been pending over~~ been deferred pending the receipt of a note from the Curator, M.R.O, regarding P.T.O

2

the improvement and development of the Museum from its inception. The Curator has stated that the note ~~would~~ be sent by the end of this month. The present proposal may be considered along with the other recommendations. For orders whether this may lie over ~~till reply~~.

File linked with another file re: admn report of the Museum sent to D.S.

Cwa
20.6.46

—Yes. Inform S.G.M by D.O. please.

SRK
24 6 46

A draft D.O. is submitted.

Cwa
26.6.46

Sms
26.6.46

Education and Public Health Departm.
(C2)

D.O No. 31738 C2/46 / Edn. dated. 27-6-46.

Dear

Museum – Government – Appointment of Artist-Modeller.

Ref. your letter No. 187-4/46 d/ 14-6-'46.

I am desired to say that the proposal for the appointment of an Artist-modeller in the Museum will be considered along with the other recommendations of the Museum Improvements committee.

Cwa
26.6.46

yours Sincerely,

To
Dr. A. Ayyappan,
M.A., Ph.D.
Superintendent, Govt. Museum.

Despd on 27-6-46

No. 717 DI/46.

Madras Record Office,
Chittoor, 16 th July 1946.

Sub:- Government Museum, Madras - Improvement of.

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p 3 cf

Ref:- Government U.O.Note No. 18647-1-C.2., dated 9th April 1946.

The Government have called for a note on the development and improvement of the Madras Museum from its inception and they have forwarded the current file relating to the Museum for reference. This file shows that the Government have now under their consideration certain recommendations for the improvement of the Museum which have been made by a Committee appointed in 1945. These recommendations are on pages 63-67 of the file. It will be seen that the Committee has not discussed the subject at all but has merely made some brief suggestions. In order therefore to enable the Government to pass orders upon these suggestions it is necessary to examine them one by one and to furnish such information as is available among the records upon the subject matter of each of them. One or two suggestions are rather new and consequently there are practically no records about them, but about the rest there is plenty of information in the records and this information has been collected and is placed before the Government in the form of notes. A general history of the Museum has not been prepared since a short historical account prepared, perhaps, by the Superintendent of the Museum is already in the file.[1] A more elaborate history may not answer any practical purpose or enable the Government to pass orders upon the suggestions placed before them.

p 63 cf

2. Now taking the recommendations one by one, the first recommendation is that " a new block of buildings is quite necessary for housing the prehistoric and anthropological collections and coins and other valuables." The Committee has not stated anything about the size and extent of this new block, but there is some indication elsewhere that the new block which the Committee has in view is the "block B of the proposed

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[1] C.F. pages 17-21.

extensions to the Museum buildings." To explain what this block B is and the reasons that have been adduced in the past for constructing it, as well as for giving an idea of the growth of the Museum buildings, a detailed note has been prepared to show what additions and alterations have been made during the last 80 years. (Please see paragraphs 13 to 27 below) Paragraphs 23 to 25 deal with the Block B.

3. The second recommendation of the Committee relates to the arrangement of the bronzes. A short note has been written about them. (Please see paragraphs 28 to 31 below)

4. The third recommendation of the Committee relates to the improvements to be made in the Amaravati gallery. This is one of the most important recommendations of the Committee. As there is a great deal of useful information in the records about this Amaravati gallery a detailed note has been prepared about this also. (Please see paragraphs 32 to 52 below) In the course of this note the various recommendations of the Committee have been fully examined and discussed. Attention is however particularly invited to paragraphs 50 to 52.

5. The fourth recommendation is that the time has come for the creation of a picture gallery worthy of Madras. This and the eleventh recommendation relating to the formation of an art gallery are dealt with together.

6. The fifth recommendation is that the zoological galleries should be made more attractive by habitat groups and that an artist should be employed for this purpose. This being an old idea there is some information in the records about it. This information has been incorporated in the form of a separate note. (Please see paragraphs 53 to 55 below)

7. The sixth recommendation is that the buildings should be fully electrified, the reptile gallery on the ground floor being taken up first. There is nothing in the records to show whether the question of lighting the galleries with electricity has been considered in the past. Nor is the practice prevailing in the other Museums in India and abroad known. It is quite possible that considerations of safety have in the past stood in the way of electrification. It must be remembered that if a fire breaks out, as a result of short circuiting, especially in any of the rooms containing exhibits preserved in alcohol, irreparable damage would be done to the entire Museum and the Connemara Public Library. But the question of safety is one for the authorities of the Electricity Department to decide. It may be stated here that the record blocks in the Madras Record Office, which are full of inflamable material, have been electrified from the very beginning. There are several fans in each record block and a few plug points for hand lamps; but no fires have been known to occur as a result of short circuit or in any other manner.

(42)

8. The seventh recommendation of the Committee is that the post of Curator, Numismatic section, should be revived. The Committee has not explained anything about the numismatic collection or the need for the revival of the post of Curator. There is however plenty of information in the records about both. A detailed note has therefore been prepared about this section also. (Please see paragraphs 56 to 68 below) Attention is particularly invited to paragraphs 66 to 68.

9. The eighthrecommendation relates to the provision of space for reserve and duplicate collections. As this is properly a question of buildings it has been dealt with in the note relating to the buildings. Attention is invited to paragraph 27 of the note.

10. The ninth recommendation relates to making the roads in the museum grounds dust proof. This is a new suggestion and there is therefore very little information in the records about it.

11. The tenth recommendation is that two Assistant Curators should be appointed "to work as Guide Lecturers and to assist the Curators". The Committee has not explained why these Guide Lecturers are necessary. There is however reason to think that

they are intended to solve the problem of the illiterate visitor. (Please see page 24 of the file). As this problem of the visitor has been considered at some lenth in the past a separate note has been written about this also. (Please see paragraphs 69 to 74 below)

12. The eleventh and last suggestion is that the Victoria Technical Institute building should be converted into an art gallery. There is not much information about this in the records, but whatever is available has been put into the form of a separate note. (Please see paragraph 75 below)

BUILDINGS.

13. The Museum was first located in the College inside Fort St. George,[1] but within a couple of years the exhibits had increased to such an extent that the museum had to be removed from the College to the Pantheon in Egmore.[2] The exhibits still went on growing in number year by year and building after building had to be constructed for accommodating them, but in spite of this the museum has always suffered from what has been called "a malady known as chronic congestion."[3] The truth of these words will be clear from what follows.

14. In the entire absence of plans among the records it has been found difficult to trace with accuracy the location of the additions and alterations to the buildings which were made from time to time but the description contained in the papers has generally been sufficient to give a fairly good idea of their nature and extent. The neucleus of the museum building was the 'Pantheon', the building after which the well-known road in Madras takes its name. This seems to have been a single storied building consisting of two halls one behind the other corresponding roughly

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[1] Report on the Government Central Museum 1853, page 1 of report for 2nd half-year of 1854.

[2] Idem.

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roughly to the halls numbered 9 and 17 in the plan of the Museum building appended to the new 'Handy Guide' to the Museum. There appears to have been a verandah at the north west corner of the inner hall. In 1859 this verandah which was 41 feet by 13 feet was converted into an office room and the old office room, the location of which cannot be identified, was used for keeping the books many of which were kept in packing cases for want of space.[1] At the same time an old shed situated in the grounds was converted into a small library and reading room.[2] Three years later, in 1862, an upper story was raised over the entire museum building.[3] Since the additional floor space thus secured is stated to have been 11174 Sq.ft. it may perhaps be concluded that the floor space in the original Pantheon building was also about equal to this. After another three years a sum of Rs.6480/- was sanctioned for erecting a "Gallery with iron posts etc., complete in the large hall."[4] It is difficult to say what was the nature of this structure.

15. Again after another three years, in 1868, the Consulting Architect to the Government was instructed to prepare "a design for an addition to the present museum building which shall consist of two large rooms for books, a room for manuscripts two reading rooms and two rooms for the accommodation of Librarians".[5] The old library room in the shed renovated in 1859 was pulled down as of no use.[6] The design prepared by the Consulting Architect consisted of a back wing running out from the north west corner of the main building and parallel to 'the central back wing'. This was divided into a central portion for the reading room and a lecture hall at the west end to accommodate about 110 persons.[7] The estimate for this back wing amounting to Rs.42,500 was sanctioned by the Government and the work was completed in 1875. This appears to be the wing which is numbered 7 in the plan and which housed the Oriental Manuscripts Library until it was shifted to the New University Library buildings on the beach.

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[1] G.O.No.1210 Public, dated 5th August 1859.

[2] Idem.

[3] G.O.No.484 Public, dated ~~6th February~~ 31st March 1860; G.O.No.1480 Pub., dated 22nd December 1862.

[4] G.O.No.1259 Public, dated 7th December 1865.

[5] G.O.No.1385 Public W. dated 4th May 1868.

[6] G.O.No.2273 Public Works Department, dated 17th July 1868.

[7] G.O.No.683 Public, dated 28th June 1873.

16. Seven years later, in 1882, the Superintendent of the museum suggested the construction of "a light gallery in the large barn like room now occupied with specimens of mammals and birds." He explained that if this were done it would have the effect of "improving the appearance of a hall which is not in harmony as regards its architectural features with the other rooms in the building."[1] The location of this gallery cannot be easily identified on the plan. The cost of constructing it was Rs.11,615/-.

17. Soon after this a scheme was brought forward for constructing some large buildings in the museum grounds for the Victoria Technical Institute and what was then called the Connemara Free Library. An estimate of Rs.3,04,270/- was sanctioned for these buildings but this estimate was afterwards raised to Rs.3,56,255 and eventually to Rs.5,50,362.[2] Although the buildings were originally designed for the Library and the Victoria Technical Institute it was subsequently found that the Institute was not capable of carrying out its aims and that its requirements could be satisfied by alloting to it an office room and the occasional use of the lecture theatre.[3] The space intended for the Institute was therefore, despite the protest of the authorities of the Institute, placed permanently at the disposal of the Superintendent of the Museum so that he might arrange part of the exhibits in the new buildings and thereby relieve the congestion in the old museum building.[4] When the new buildings were completed in 1895 the three blocks of buildings were ordered to be designated as (1) The Museum old building (2) The Museum new building (3) The Connemara Public Library.[5] The new building was situated to the east of the Connemara Public Library while the old building was situated to the west of it. Some of the members of the Government inspected the new buildings soon afterwards and found the rooms "in many instances undesirably

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1, G.O.No.2378 Public Works Department, dated 14th September 1882.
2. G.O.No.1264 Public Works Department, dated 2nd May 1890;
G.O.No.3239 " " " " 6th December 1890;
G.O.No.818 " " " " 28th March 1894.
3. G.O.No.597 Public, dated 16th August 1894.
4. G.O.No.916 Education, dated 4th December 1895.
5. Idem.

small for museum purposes" and in some cases "very badly lighted."[1] The remarks about defective lighting seem to be still applicable as will be seen from the report of the 1945 Committee now under the consideration of the Government.[2]

18. The extent and situation of the new building which was placed at the disposal of the Superintendent of the Museum can be judged to some extent from the proposals made by him on this occasion for arranging the exhibits. These show that besides the "eastern room on the ground floor for the library of the Victoria Technical Institute and for meetings of the Council" there were 6 halls and rooms.[3] The exhibits were arranged in these rooms as follows.

1. Central hall on ground floor - Anthropological Laboratory.
2. Western room on ground floor - Ethnological collections from cairns, cromlechs, prehistoric graves etc.
3. Large front room on upper story - Art collection of metal ware, wood carving and jewellery.
4. Eastern room on the upper story - Arms and armoury of Tanjore.
5. Western room on the upper story - Art, fabrics and illustrations of design.
6. Back room on the upper story - New collections of ethnology and anthropology.

There seems to have been a great deal of corridor space and this space was used for displaying some of the conspicuous exhibits.[4] There were two (?) towers and the rooms in these were set apart for the binder, the draftsmen, the students and the Sub Librarians. The space liberated in the old museum building by the transfer of the art collection to the new building was utilised for the economic and industrial series which had long been waiting for a suitable place of exhibition.[5] The books of the Museum were transferred to the Connemara Public Library and the Library block in the old building formed an excellent place for the Oriental Manuscripts Library.[6] From the description of the later additions to the building contained in the records there is reason to think that the 6 halls and rooms

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1. G.O.No. 916 Education, dated 4th December 1895.
2. C.F. page 63.
3. G.O.No. 916 Education, dated 4th December 1895.
4. Idem.
5. Idem.
6. Idem.

rooms mentioned above corresponded more or less to the rooms represented on the plan by numbers 21, 22 and 25 and the rooms above them.

19. The problem of space was however not completely solved. It cropped up again in 1904 when it was found that there was not enough space to house the pre-historic collections which had then been unearthed at Adichanallur in the Tinnevelly District. An annexe consisting of a single storied building measuring 40 feet by 30 feet was therefore added at the north west corner of the new building adjoining the pre-historic gallery at a cost of Rs.7,862/-.[1] In 1906 a room measuring 40 feet by 30 feet was built over this single storied building to house the pre-historic antiquities which had been purchased from Mr.Bruce Foote for Rs.15,000/-.[2] These must have been the rooms shown in the plan as No.26 and the room above it. A verandah on the north side of the new building was at the same time walled up and used as a further annexe to the ethnological section.[3] While these extensions to the new building were being made an annexe to the marine gallery measuring 59 feet by 20 feet was built "over the open terrace of a portion of the old museum which with the exception of this open terrace is a two storied building."[4] The site of this structure cannot be easily identified on the plan. All the alterations mentioned above were completed in 1908 and the exhibits for which they were intended were arranged in them in the same year.[5]

20. In the following year proposals were made for extending the sculpture gallery on the ground floor of the old building and the economic gallery on the first floor of the same building in order to display some of the exhibits which were either 'lying in the museum grounds' or 'buried away' in all sorts of places.[6] An expenditure of Rs.38,200/- was sanctioned for constructing these extensions. Before, however, the work was undertaken Dr.Vogel, the officiating

Director

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[1] G.O.No.683 Public Works Department, dated 29th February 1904.
[2] G.O.No.2106 Public Works Department, dated 10th November 1906.
[3] G.O.No.562 Education, dated 25th July 1908.
[4] G.O.No.2106 Public Works Department, 10th November 1906.
[5] G.O.No.562 Education, dated 25th July 1908.
[6] G.O.No.562 Education, dated 25th July 1908.

Director of Archaeology, who had visited the museum sometime before, raised some objections to the scheme.[1] He held that the existing room, owing to its shape as well as its want of wall space, was unsuitable for the proper display of sculptures and that the new scheme provided "for the doubling of the present space and the repetition of its obvious mistakes." He recommended the construction of a separate sculpture gallery in the grounds to the south of the museum buildings, 200 feet by 15 feet with an open verandah 10 feet wide. He pointed out that this gallery could in course of time be extended so as to cover the three sides of the museum grounds. He observed that the existing sculpture gallery would be very suitable for the economic section. He also recommended the construction of well-lighted godown for the storage of archaeological specimens which were not of sufficient interest to be exhibited but which were nevertheless worthy of being preserved in such a way as to be accessible to students of archaeology.[2] Nor was this all. Mr. Alexander Rea, the Superintendent of Archaeological Survey, who was asked to state whether the new sculpture gallery would accommodate all the archaeological objects in the museum considered that it was not sufficient even to accommodate "a representative selection of them" and that there was no "provision whatever for future accessions." He therefore proposed that another room measuring 53 feet by 21 feet should also be built.[3] The Superintendent of the museum, Dr.Henderson, however, held that there would be sufficient accommodation not only for a representative selection of the objects but also for some future accessions. He was of the opinion that it was unnecessary to exhibit duplicates and unimportant articles.[4] The Government therefore rejected the proposals of Dr.Vogel and Mr.Rea and ordered that the scheme already approved by them should be executed.[5] The extension was accordingly begun and was completed in 1913. The old gallery was thereafter set apart for the Buddhist and Jain sculptures and the Hindu sculptures were all removed into the new room.[1] This new room would appear to be the room bearing No.6 in the plan.

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[1] G.O.No.604 Education, dated 30th August 1911.
[2] Idem. pages 4-5 paragraphs 14 to 20.
[3] G.O.No.2104 Public Works Department, dated 24th December 1912.
[4] G.O.No.604 Education, dated 30th August 1911 page 9, paragrap 2.
[5] Idem.

21. In the following year (1914) a proposal was submitted for constructing extensions on the south side of both the old and the new buildings for the Zoology and the Ethnology collections.[2] The Government however approved the construction of only the extension to the new building for the ethnology collections. This extension consisted of a room below and a room above corresponding to the extension already made on the north side and it cost a sum of Rs.22,210/-.[3] When this was completed the Tanjore arms were brought down and placed in the room below by the side of the arms obtained from the Madras Arsenal thereby bringing all the arms together in one place. The room which was thus vacated above and the new room on the upper story were set apart for ethnological collections. The rearrangement also made it possible to display a large number of treasure trove idols which had accumulated for some years.[4] This new extension was perhaps the room No.19 in the plan and the room above it.

22. In 1918, the extension to the old building, which had been proposed in 1914 but which had not been approved by the Government, was sanctioned at a cost of Rs.44,300/-.[5] This enabled the collections in the zoological galleries to be rearranged with reference to their scientific and educational bearings. This also provided more space for additional exhibits to illustrate the natural surroundings and habits of common South Indian animals.[6]

23. After this there was a lull in the building activities of the museum for some years caused chiefly by the financial stringency which resulted from the trade depression of the early 1930's. In 1929 the Superintendent of the Museum submitted proposals for constructing 2 blocks, referred to in his report

as

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1. G.O.No.1689 Education, dated 23rd August 1913.
2. G.O.No.2343 Public Works Department, dated 1st December 1914.
3. G.O.No.619 Public Works Department, dated 14th May 1919.
4. G.O.No.1301 Public Works Department, dated 16th October 1917.
5. G.O.No. 1043 Public Works Department, dated 4th September 1918.
6. Idem.

as A and B, at a cost of Rs.1,43,000/-.[1] Block A was to be constructed at the site of the Oriental Manuscripts Library building after demolishing that building. It was to consist of two floors. The ground floor was intended for the archaeological section to house the Buddhist sculptures from Goli and the sculptures and inscribed pillars expected from the excavations made at the Buddhist sites at Alluru and Gummadiduru in the Kistna District and at Nagarjunikonda in the Guntur District.[2] The upper floor of this block was to be used as the office.[3] Block B was to be constructed to the south of the "theatre and arms gallery".[4] The upper story of this block was meant for the ethnological collections and the ground floor for the pre-historic antiquities and weapons.[5] Block B was proposed to be constructed first so that the manuscripts in the Oriental Manuscripts Library might be transferred to it pending the construction of the University Library to which it had been decided to remove them permanently. After the manuscripts were thus removed to Block B the Library building was to be pulled down and Block A constructed on the site.[6] These proposals were accepted by the Government and some funds were provided for commencing the work immediately.[7] But before the work was started the Superintendent of the Museum submitted a revised estimate for the work amounting to Rs.3,17,000, that is, more than twice the original estimate.[8] The increase in the estimate, it was explained, was due to the desirability of harmonising the proposed buildings with the existing ones.[9] However, before this revised estimate could be considered, the financial stringency had set in and, even though the Superintendent pressed for the construction of at least the A block, the Government ordered the whole scheme to be postponed.[10] The scheme was accordingly deferred from year to year.

In

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1. G.O.No.346 Public Works Department, dated 6th February 1929.
2. Idem. pages 1-2.
3. Idem. page 2.
4. Idem. page 7.
5. Idem. pages 2-3.
6. Idem. page 7.
7. Idem. page 15.
8. G.O.No.2137 Law(Education) dated 16th October 1930.
9. Idem. page 9.
10. Idem.

24. In the meantime the scheme was further modified in 1933. The idea of demolishing the Oriental Manuscripts Library building was abandoned[1] and the Consulting Architect was asked to prepare new plans. He suggested two blocks separate from the main buildings but connected to them instead of being extensions to these main buildings. He also planned the new blocks as galleries instead of rooms.[2] He explained that 'this form is more convenient, flexible and economical for the arrangement of exhibits and it is pleasanter and easier for visitors to follow a definite route.' He explained that the new blocks suggested by him would overcome "the initial fundamental error in the existing plan" as they would connect up at each end and thus make a single entrance possible. He further suggested that the galleries should be provided with side balconies "so that a much larger number of small exhibits could be arranged on or about eye level without unduly increasing space."[3] According to the Consulting Architects' plan the cost of the new scheme could be reduced without appreciably diminishing the space.[4] It had also the advantage of preserving the Oriental Manuscripts Library for the use of the Museum later on. While submitting the Consulting Architect's plan to the Government the Superintendent, Dr.Gravely, pointed out that if it was accepted it would afford a connection between the anthropological and allied archaeological collections in metal in the new building with the archaeological collections in stone in the old building, which were separated in an unnatural manner, and that it admitted of a single entrance to both the buildings, thus economising supervision of umbrellas, sales of publications etc. He also pointed out that it was possible according to the plan to bring the entrance to the museum close to the museum office and to keep the entrance to the Connemara Public Library separate from the entrance to the museum both of which were desirable from the point of view of convenience.[5] Dr.Gravely explained that the needs of the Connemara

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1. G.O.No.290 Education, dated 23rd February 1933, page 10.
2. Idem. page 11.
3. Idem. page 11.
4. Idem. pages 11-12.
5. Idem. page 5.

Connemara Public Library had also been taken into consideration and that when more and more space became necessary for the Library the Museum could vacate the new museum building little by little by moving into fresh buildings and thus enable the Library to expand in the only direction in which it could properly do so. He stated that it was with this object in view that the Block B was proposed to communicate with the upper floor alone of the new museum building.[1]

25. This scheme was also postponed for want of funds from year to year.[2] It was only in 1939 that the block A was finally constructed.[3] The later papers relating to the construction of this block being now with the Government could not be referred to. From the plan appended to the Handy Guide and from the pictures in the Administration Report of the Museum for 1939-40[4] it would seem that the plan suggested by the Consulting Architect in 1933 was followed in building this block A. Block B has not yet been constructed. The Museum Committee of 1945 has emphasised the need for the construction of a new block and it has suggested that this Block B might now be built.[5] The Superintendent of the Museum however refers to the plan approved in 1929. It is not known whether he has deliberately done so or whether he has done so without knowing that a new plan has been suggested, and apparently accepted, in 1933. Since however block A has been built according to the plan of 1933 it may be desirable, for the sake of harmony, to build Block B also according to the same plan

26. The foregoing paragraphs deal only with the additions and alterations made to the main buildings. Besides these, a number of separate buildings had also been put up in the grounds from time to time. In 1896 a work room and a stuffing room were constructed at a cost of Rs.10,770.[6] In 1909 a clerk's office was built facing the Oriental Manuscripts Library.[7] A temporar shed

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1. G.O.No.290 Education, dated 23rd February 1933, page 6.
2. Idem. page 24.
3. G.O.No.1180 Education, dated 27th June 1940, page 1.
4. Idem. Please see frontispice.
5. C.F. page 25, Please see suggestion NO.1.
6. G.O.No.2999 Public Works Department, dated 22nd October 1896.
7. G.O.No.1405 Public Works Department, dated 19th November 1909

shed was put up for the Archaeological objects in 1912.[1] This was rebuilt in a substantial manner in 1937.[2] In 1930 an archaeological chemical laboratory was constructed[3] and this was enlarged in 1934[4]. A wall was put up in 1913 between the Museum and the Maternity Hospital.[5] Extensive repairs to the roofs of all the buildings were also carried out from time to time.[6]

27. In addition to the construction of Block B the Committee has also recommended the construction of a number of godowns for housing reserve and duplicate collections. The demand for godowns space may be said to have been always as great as the demand for gallery space. In 1911 Dr.Vogel observed: "Another desideratum is a godown, some 60 by 30 feet for the storage of archaeological specimens which are not of sufficient interest to be exhibited in the public galleries and yet ought to be preserved in such a way as to be accessible to students of archaeology. As such a building is purely utilitarian, it should be as simple as possible. It should, however, be well lighted. Its site should be chosen in such a way as not to interfere with the scheme sketched above of extending the archaeological galleries along the outside of the museum compound. In case my proposals are adopted, I strongly recommend that the construction of a godown be taken in hand first of all. This will enable us to shelter the antiquities now placed in the open and to store away the prehistorics which are now encumbering the museum offices and the stuffing room."[7] Dr.Henderson, however, considered that a new godown was unnecessary and that the cellars below the mineral gallery could be used as godowns. He added that there was "no very suitable site in the grounds" for constructing a godown. Dr.Vogel's suggestion was not therefore accepted.[8] The present Committee has not suggested the construction of isolated

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1. G.O.No.453 Public Works Department, dated 23rd March 1912.
2. " 1932 -do- dated 24th September 1937.
3. " 2343 -do- dated 28th October 1933.
4. " 1787 -do- dated 15th August 1934.
5. " 74 Education, dated 28th January 1913.
6. " 68 Public Works Department, dated 11th January 1918; G.O.No.1445 P.W.D. d/ 18th September 1920.
7. " 604 Edn., dated 30th August 1911 pages 4-5 paragraphs 18-19.
8. Idem. pages 8-9.

godowns in the grounds but has recommended the conversion of the space between two of the existing blocks of the old buildings and the space adjacent to some of the blocks into godowns. It has proposed that these godowns should be low, terraced structures so that they might not obstruct the windows of the galleries. It is not known whether there will be any objection to the construction of such godowns from the architectural point of view. It is however almost certain that from the point of view of light and ventilation these godowns will be very defective. Of course arrangement can be made for providing artificial lighting and ventilation but, apart from the cost of such arrangements, the students of archaeology and others who wish to study the objects stored in these godowns, may not find these arrangements very satisfactory. The Committee has also recommended the provision of cellars below the block B which is proposed to be built. The Public Works Department authorities may be in a position to state whether it is possible to do so.

BRONZES.

28. The bronze collection in the Madras Museum has been considered to be "undoubtedly the finest in existence"[1] and it has been stated that, with the exception of a few fine specimens in the Colombo Museum and the Musee Gruimet in Paris, there is no public collection in which they are adequately represented.[2] The Indian Museum, Calcutta, for instance, does not possess a good collection of bronzes. It therefore desired as recently as 1914 to acquire some specimens of the South Indian bronzes similar to those in the Madras Museum to fill up its deficiencies in works of this nature.[3] It may however be stated that the Superintendent of the Museum and the Government decided that none of

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1. G.O.No. 1156-57 Education, dated 9th October 1914, page 6.
2. Idem. pages 6-7.
3. Idem. page 1.

of the bronzes in the Museum should be spared for the Indian Museum and that only undoubted duplicates which might be acquired thereafter under the Treasure Trove Act should be supplied.[1]

29. About 25 years ago this valuable collection was found to have been seriously affected by the salt and the moisture in the atmosphere of Madras. In 1924 Dr.Gravely reported that most of the bronzes were "suffering from a contagious chemical disease as a result of which they are being steadily more and more disfigured."[2] Efforts were therefore made to see whether there was any 'Silpi' or Stapaka' in any of the Madras districts who would be in a position to treat them, but, as no competent person came forward, a trained chemist of the Archaeological Department was specially appointed to treat the bronzes chemically and to protect them against further deterioration.[3] The post was subsequently made permanent when it was found that not only the bronzes but also other exhibits like the Amaravati marbles and the prehistoric implements were deteriorating and in need of chemical treatment.[4] The bronzes were treated under a process of electrolysis and were placed in special teakwood cases which were provided at an expense of Rs.15,540.[5]

30. The Government have thus already incurred a considerable expenditure over this collection. The Committee has now suggested that more space should be allotted for them on the first floor of the Front Building. This will be possible if Block B is built and the anthropological collections which occupy part of that floor are removed, as suggested by the Committee, into that block. The committee has also recommended that lighting should be improved in the gallery. In regard to this it has already been pointed out in the section on buildings that the defect in lighting in the galleries of the Front Building was noticed as early as 1895.[6] Nothing however seems to

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[1] G.O.Nos.1156-57 Education, dated 9th October 1914 pages 7 and 12.
[2] G.O.No.665 Law (Education), dated 1st May 1925, page 1.
[3] " 1419 -do- dated 6th October 1923 pages 4-5.
[4] " 712 Education, dated 2nd April 1937.
[5] " 558 Law (Education), dated 20th April 1923.
[6] Please see paragraph 17 above.

to have been done to rectify this defect till now. The committee has not explained how the lighting is to be improved. There is evidence to show that when the annexe to the Marine Gallery in the old building was being built in 1913 it was proposed to provide sky lights though subsequently the idea was given up as it was found that they would not afford enough light while they would take up valuable space in the floor above.[1] Since, however, in the present case there is no floor above there cannot perhaps be any objection to providing sky lights.

31. The Committee has likewise suggested that the cases should be remodelled so as to permit all the sides of the images to be seen. There is evidence to show that most of the cases are at present arranged against the walls and that they are provided with glass panes only on three sides.[2] It is therefore not possible for visitors to see the back of the images. The committee's suggestion would make it necessary to provide glass panes on the fourth sides also, but this will be possible only if a passage is left between the wall and the cases. Such an arrangement will naturally require more space but this may be made available if the anthropological collections are removed into the block B which is proposed to be built.

AMARAVATI SCULPTURES.

32. The Madras Museum is justly famous for some of its collections which, like the bronze collection, are unique. But none of its collections has come in for so much criticism at the hands of experts or aroused such bitter controversy over its custody and care as the collection known as the Amaravati sculptures or the Amaravati marbles. The importance of this collection will be seen from the fact that the committee appointed in 1945 deemed it necessary to appoint a special sub committee of

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[1] G.O.No.1592 Public Works Department, 9th August 1913.
[2] " 558 Law(Education), dated 20th April 1923, please see the plans and estimates.

of experts to make a separate report upon it.[1] As some of the suggestions made by this sub committee are similar to those which gave rise to adverse criticism in the past it is considered necessary to describe at some length the history of this collection and the issues which were raised in the past over its preservation.

33. As the name indicates, this collection comprises the marble sculptures which were discovered at the ancient Buddhist site at Amaravati or Amareswaram situated on the banks of the Kistna 45 miles west of Bezwada. In spite of the damage suffered by them in the course of centuries at the hands of iconoclasts and others they have been acclaimed by high authorities to be extremely beautiful and rare specimens of sculpture.[2] They are stated to stand favourable comparison even with the famous marbles in the Paris Museum and the British Museum.[3] They were first discovered in 1801 by Col.Mackenzie, the well-known oriental scholar and antiquary, who in the course of his duties as Surveyor General, came across a trench 10 feet wide and 12 feet deep with sculptures partly visible near Amareswaram. He made some excavations on this spot once in 1801 and afterwards in about 1815 and published an account of his proceedings and discoveries.[4]

34. About 1830 Mr.Robertson, the then Collector of Masulipatam, founded a pettah near Masulipatam which still bears his name and, to beautify it, brought some of the sculptures from Amaravati and placed them in the square of the market place.[5] These must have been the sculptures excavated by Col.Mackenzie. They attracted the attention of the Governor who immediately ordered their removal to a safer place. In consequence of this some of them appear to have been removed into the compound of the house of Mr.Alexander, who was then the Master Attendant of the port of Masulipatam.[6] No more excavations seem to have been made

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[1] C.F. page 63, please see recommendation No.3.
[2] G.O.No.1160 Public, dated 5th June 1886, page
[3] Report of the Government Central Museum, Madras 1853, please see page 192of the Report on the Elliot marbles.
[4] Idem. page 194 of -Do-.
[5] Idem. page 195.
[6] G.O.No.301 Public, dated 4th March 1879.

made thereafter until 1845 when Sir Walter Elliot, a Madras Civilian who filled several high posts in the Government service with distinction about the middle of the last century, and who was also an archaeologist, visited the site and collected some of the marbles with the object of sending them to the Court of Directors of the East India Company in England.[1] The marbles were however sent by him in the first instance to Madras. Here the were lying in a state of neglect in the College at Fort St.George[2] until about 1853 when the Court of Directors came to know about them and called for a report in order to find if any of them were worthy of being sent to England.[3] A report was thereupon prepared by Dr.Taylor,[4] the famous oriental scholar, and in consequence of this all the marbles with the exception of "2 rather poor specimens" were in 1859 despatched to England.[5] Here again they are stated to have been neglected[6] for some years until finally they were removed to the British Museum and exhibited in a fitting manner. They are stated to have been placed "on the walls facing and on each side of the grand staircase"[7] As Elliot was instrumental in bringing some of these marbles to light they have sometimes been decribed as "Elliot Marbles."

35. Subsequently in 1877 it was brought to the notice of the Government that some of the sculptures which had been removed from Robertsonpettah to Mr.Alexander's house were about to be disposed of by Mr.Alexander's executors along with his other properties.[8] As the Superintendent of the Museum was strongly opposed to the idea of allowing these sculptures to pass into private hands the Government ordered that they should be purchase for the Museum for Rs.200/-.[9] They were accordingly purchased and in due course brought to the Museum along with a few pieces which had been lying in the Bezwada Museum for a number of year[1] There is an interesting description of the marbles in the report made by Dr. Bidie, who was then in charge of the Museum, shortl after they were received.

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[1] Report of the Government Central Museum 1853, please see pag 220 of Report on Elliot marbles.
[2] Idem. page 195.
[3] Idem.
[4] Idem. pages 191-284
[5] G.O.No.301 Public, dated 4th March 1879.
[6] Idem.
[7] Dictionary of Natural Biography, vol.VI. page 682.
[8] G.O.No.301 Public, d/ 4th March 1879. 9. Idem.
[10] G.O.No.183 Public, dated 22nd March 1882.

36. He said, "The slabs received consist of two or three kinds of marble, one being fine and uniformly close grained and of a very pale grey colour, another of coarser grain, unequal quality, and darker colour, and a third of a somewhat slate-like structure. All the finer and more elaborate carvings are executed in the first-named stone. It is very durable, but has got highly brittle from age, so that contact with iron or even hard wood causes it to chip, rendering it necessary to exercise great care in handling the slabs. The second kind is not so brittle, but being of unequal quality, the softer parts have got worn down, giving the surface an aged, granulated appearance. The third or slate-like stone appears to be very durable, and the slabs executed in it are those which Fergusson speaks of as having belonged to the lower frieze of the outer rail. Of the whole collection the marbles purchased at Masulipatam are by far the finest and most valuable specimens to hand, and one of them is superior to anything hitherto recovered from the ruins, and is not likely to be surpassed by any future discovery. The invoice number of this valuable relic is 8, and its dimensions are length 6 feet 3½ inches, breadth 5 feet 4½ inches, and thickness 9 inches. It is executed in the compact pale grey marble, the carvings being in bold relief, most elaborate and sharp as those in a piece of Chinese ivory work. In the centre it contains a large figure of a Dagoba, having on each side two pillars of exquisite design. At the top of the slab there is a frieze with a ledge at the bottom bearing an inscription. This unfortunately has been partially removed by rude hasty chipping, the thief having evidently been disturbed before he could complete his act of vandalism, as portions of the inscription still exist at each end of the ledge. The above remarks merely refer to the obverse of the slab, as I have not yet seen the reverse, being unwilling to disturb it, as it is so brittle, until it is finally moved to be set up in the Museum. It may be stated here, in passing, that the idea is to erect it in an antique frame of stonework, like a picture, but in a position to allow both sides to be seen and examined. In Plate 75 of Fergusson's

Tree and Serpent Worship (1st Edition), the figure of a somewhat similar marble is given, and he believes that it formed part of the inner rail of the tope. However this may be, there can be no doubt that this slab was intended to give an exact and everlasting picture of the magnificent Dagoba to which it belonged, and whether contemplated from an antiquarian or architectural point of view its value therefore can hardly be over-estimated."[1]

37. The marbles in Mr. Alexander's house seem to have suggested to Mr. Robert Sewell, the Acting Head Assistant Collector of Kistna who was keenly interested in antiquarian research, the idea of beginning excavations again at Amaravati. He therefore started excavations towards the end of 1877 and discovered several fresh sculptures.[2] He found many of them lying entirely out of position, many overturned and out of position but still lying near their original position and some in situ. He thereupon suggested to the Government that the sculptures which were entirely out of position might be removed to Madras and exhibited in the Museum. He stated that their arrangement would not be a matter of difficulty as they were merely so many loose specimens and their position as discovered was unimportant. Mr. Sewell wished the stones which were lying near their original position to be left where they were until a draftsman and photographer could fix their position decisively. In regard to the stones in situ he considered that they should be left standing[3]. The Government approved his proposals to remove the loose specimens to the Museum. A peon was ordered to be employed for taking care of the remaining sculptures left at the site.[4]

38. Mr. Sewell's discoveries seem to have induced the then Governor, Duke of Buckingham, to order further excavations at the spot in 1880. Several pieces seem to have been unearthed by these excavations, but the way in which these excavations were made was strongly criticised by Dr. Burgess, the Archaeological Surveyor, who inspected the site soon after[5]. He complained that the

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1. G.O.No.473 Public, dated 30th June 1882, page 1. paragraph 2 & 4
2. G.O.No.259-60 Public, dated 24th February 1879.
3. Idem.
4. Idem.
5. G.O.No.45 Public, dated 12th January 1882.

marbles had been "pounded to pieces in the most regardless way during the rough and ready excavations in February 1880", that no arrangements had been made to "register the condition of the mound during the progress of the excavation" and that "consequently all the information that might have been secured has been entirely lost." He suggested to the Government that the marbles might be sent to Madras immediately[1]. In the meantime he proceeded to pack the stones in straw ropes and to remove them to the bank of the Kistna 1½ miles away[2].

39. Before however the sculptures were removed to Madras a question was raised whether they ought to be removed at all. The Government of India desired that they should be inspected at the site by Major Cole, the Curator of Ancient Monuments, in order to determine whether they should be preserved at the site[3]. Major Cole accordingly visited Amaravati and stated it as his opinion that the sculptures ought not to be removed to Madras, firstly because the museum had no space to house them and secondly because the atmospheric condition of the city was likely to affect the marbles. He suggested that some kind of conservation might be made at the site at Amaravati with the help of the pieces available[4]. The views of Major Cole were severely criticised by Dr.Burgess. The latter strongly resented the interference of Major Cole in the affair and pointed out to the Government in very strong terms the absurdity of conserving a structure which did not exist at all[5]. When experts differed like this the Government naturally referred the matter to General Cunnigham, the Director General of Archaeological Survey. The latter suggested that, although he agreed with Major Cole in the desirability of conserving ancient monuments whenever possible, in this instance, as so many sculptures had already been removed from Amaravati, it would be better to transfer all the pieces to the museum. He suggested that in the museum "a certain number of the pillars might be set up with thin rail bars and copings complete, sufficient to show what the building actually

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[1] G.O.No.45 Public, dated 12th January 1882.
[2] G.O.No.153 Public, dated 16th February 1882.
[3] G.O.No.1151-52 Public, dated 12th June 1883, page 1.
[4] Idem. page 3.
[5] Idem. page 5, paragraph 4.

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actually was in its original state."[1] Upon this the Government finally ordered the removal of the marbles to the Museum.[2]

40. At this point Dr.Burgess raised the question of the proper way of arranging the marbles. After emphasising the need for extreme care in handling the sculptures he observed, "I am inclined to think also that the salt in the atmosphere of Madras may act deleteriously on the surfaces of the stones turning them first to a dead white and ultimately causing the surfaces to become granular and scale off. In view of this it would seem to be desirable that the finest slabs at least should be enclosed in air tight glazed cases as has been done with the Amaravati sculptures now at the British Museum".[3] Dr.Burgess also stated that it would be desirable if some of the slabs which were broken could be cemented together, but he warned that this should not be attempted unless really skillful workmen were available. Finally he wanted the Government to decide whether some of the sculptures should be sent to the Indian Museum at Calcutta and the British Museum, where in his opinion "they would be seen and examined by more people interested in them and able to appreciate their interest in one year than are likely to see them in Madras in a decade".[4] Upon this the Government asked the Superintendent of the Museum to ascertain the cost of housing the marbles in the Museum.

41. Dr.Bidie, the Superintendent, then proposed that the sculptures might be placed in one of the halls of the Museum. He did not think that they should be encased in glass. He said, "So far as can be judged from the specimens which have been exposed in the Museum for a quarter of a century the air of Madras has no appreciable prejudicial effect on the denser sort of marble on which most of the Amaravati sculptures are executed. It is the carbonised air plus moisture that is so destructive to many marbles in cities like London. Fortunately we have no smoke nuisance or noxious chemical vapours in Madras and as regards the salt air the Museum is quite two miles away from the sea

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[1] G.O.No.1151-52 Public, dated 12th June 1883, page 7.
[2] Idem.
[3] G.O.No.843 Public, dated 28th April 1884.
[4] Idem. page 1.

and the wind, before it reaches Egmore, is filtered though masses of foliage .... As a matter of fact the air in the neighbourhood of the Museum is very pure". He attributed the bleaching and decay of the surface of the marbles to the destructive action of the carbon, moisture and air when the stones were buried in the ruins at Amaravati and considered that the destructive process would not advance when the stones were housed in a dry room. He stated that if the process should actually be found to advance the stones might be protected with glass or with some preservative.[1]

42. The proposal of Dr.Bidie was approved by the Government and the sculptures were duly installed in the Museum in 1885. The way in which they were arranged,however,came in shortly afterwards for very severe criticism. In fact, the letter in which this criticism or rather attack was made is almost unexampled in the annals of the Government for its severity of language and sentiment. This extraordinary letter was addressed by Dr.Burgess, who,as has been shown above, in connection with his controversy with Major Cole had made a bitter attack upon the latter for suggesting that the Amaravati marbles should be conserved on the site,[2] and it was addressed by him to no less an authority than the Chief Secretary to Government. Dr. Burgess, who had by this time succeeded General Cunningham as Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India, began by saying that having heard from others that the Amaravati marbles had been arranged or fixed in a manner which would 'vex' him or 'disappoint' him he had been led to visit the museum, that the visit had shown him that the ominous hints which he had received were more than realised and that it was therefore his duty "to point out to Government the irreparable damage that has been done to one of the most valuable collections in India". He then proceeded: "The sculptures have not only been 'fixed up' in the most unsatisfactory disarrangement but have been embedded deep in massess of Portland cement out of which they can never

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[1] G.O.No.1525 Public, dated 8th July 1884. (R)
[2] Please see paragraph 39 above.

never be extracted. This strong coarse cement is laid over and hides every part of the slabs except the mere sculptured surfaces. Thus the pillar slabs of the outer rail had lenticular mortices in their edges to receive the tenons on the ends of the rail discs and it was a matter of the utmost importance in any arragement of these slabs to leave these mortices visible with the tenons of the rails inserted so that it might be seen at a glance how this remarkable railing was constructed, how closely the discs adjoined to the pillars and what spaces were left between the discs. What has been done is to set up some of the rail pillars, embed them in a casing of cement and by their sides -- but far too far off to reach the sockets -- a set of discs and to cover these up -- even the flanges and tenons which made their place and use intelligible -- in a thick smooth wall of cement. Anything more barbarously stupid is hard to conceive. In two cases inscriptions had been noticed on the corner flanges and holes are left in the cement about four inches thick, going into these inscriptions. Being high up they look at first sight like ventilation holes or for sparrows' nests but by the use of a ladder a visitor may discover that they are to show a few letters on the stone. At the end of this row, where the edge of a railpillar was exposed, even the mortice hole in it has been wantonly filled up and the whole side of the slab plastered over with cement, obliterating most effectively all indication of the mode of structural arrangement. I need not detail a tenth of the barbarisms that have been perpetrated in the ill-advised arrangement of these once priceless sculptures. In the front row, an attempt has been made to group together a series of slabs from the central stupa of early style. The intention was good: but not having the slightest knowledge of style in sculpture, the arranger has placed among them a slab from the inner rail, of the very latest date in the whole series, and next to it again a slab which any eye might see is one of the earliest of all, long prior to the great railing. Then fragments of coping of special interest for their very early style have been built into the sides of a large trough across the floor -- whether intended as a bath or a pitfall for those who carry their eyes too high, is not clear. In its sides fragments are built which ought to have been placed 5 or 6 feet high. But enough: I have seen many museums, but never one in which a valuable collection was arranged with so little knowledge and care nor so needlessly injured by casing in a cement that can never be removed. With a little plaster of Paris to repair breaks on the separate stones -- chiefly tenons and sides of mortices -- and a very little common sense, directed by competent knowledge, the collection might have been displayed to great advantage and made most instructive. This is now impossible. Why was this done without consulting any one who knew about such work and could have arranged the sculptures instructively? Report -- no better index, perhaps, of truth than smoke is of fire -- says, "it is regarded as a masterpiece of Scotch diplomacy to frustrate my designs of having them removed". Notwithstanding some paragraphs I had seen a while ago in the local press to the like silly purport, I could hardly believe my ears. My "designs" were freely and fully communicated to Government long since; and if any one is so ignorantly credulous as to imagine that I could remove a single slab without the approval of His Excellency and his Council, he is to be pitied. If there was "design" in the case, it seems to have been to tie the hands of Government by means of Portland cement. But at what a cost! Few museums have received so important a collection of sculptures; none has shewed itself so unworthy by such wanton and ignorant abuses of such a trust. A number of stones, some of them of interest, still lie about uncared for, and perhaps the important inscription of Pulumayi, by which the age of the stupa is fixed, is still among them. All the Government can now do seems to be to give orders that such as have been spared shall not be injured hereafter. This letter, to such as have no interest in art or archaeology, may seem strongly expressed, but, after all the trouble I took to have these marbles conveyed to Madras in safety, it may be imagined how

how vexing it is to see them so ruined -- and for a silly whim".[1]

43. The Government strongly resented this attack on Dr. Bidie, but, before passing orders upon the letter, they referred it to him for his remarks.[2] Dr.Bidie then stated that the original idea was to erect these marbles in the open space between the two back wings of the Museum buildings and to protect them by a glass roof but that this was found impracticable on architectual and other grounds. He explained that "as the sculptures were liable to injury and of very little interest to the General Public if simply deposited in an unconnected state, it was decided to set them up in a way that would give them an idea of their use and position and protect them from further injury" He pointed out that it had been realised that no arrangement of so heterogeneous a collection could entirely defy criticism and that therefore the pieces had been arranged in the best manner possible. The slabs, he said, were too heavy and brittle in the opinion of the Consulting Architect to be erected without filling up the interstices with cement. In regard to the chronological arrangement, he stated that the space that was available did not permit any such arrangement. Finally he observed, "And, after all, the value of the collection throughout does not, to the man of science, depend so much on the mode of its grouping, as on its sculptures and inscriptions, all of which have been most religiously preserved. The stones as now arranged constitute a very attractive and instructive collection to 99 per cent of the Museum visitors, and the archaeological one per cent will, it is to be hoped, as a rule, see and understand the difficulties we had to encounter and be grateful that he has got so much. It may also be mentioned that scientific visitors from various parts of the world have already, not once but often, expressed their approval of the collection as it now stands. Having thus referred to Dr.Burgess chief objections, it does not appear necessary to notice his other remarks except the one in paragraph 6 that a certain

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1. G.O.No.1160 Public dated 5th June 1886 pages 1-2.
2. Idem.

certain number of stones "lie about uncared for'. This is incorrect, as all are most carefully preserved."[1]

44. On receipt of Dr.Bidie's letter the Government passed the following orders:

"His Excellency the Governor in Council is quite satisfied with the reasons assigned by Surgeon-General Bidie for the course which was adopted in dealing with the Amaravati sculptures. He has read, if not with surprise, at least with regret, the extraordinary attack which the Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India, has seen fit to make on the Madras Museum and its late Superintendent. Dr.Burgess holds the anomalous position of Archaeological Surveyor in a province which he seldom visits and in which his interest has been chiefly manifested by fault-finding. It was left to the local authorities, in the absence of the responsible adviser of Government in such matters, to make the best use possible of the Amaravati remains. This has been done, and His Excellency in Council is inclined to think that the wholesale condemnation compressed in Dr.Burgess' letter would meet with no sympathy from the archaeological one per cent or any other proportion of Museum visitors; it certainly has neither his concurrence nor approval. It should not be forgotten also that, though Dr.Burgess has, after a protracted absence, actually visited the Museum, he has not apparently grasped the facts relating to the sculptures which he came to see, for he describes in his 6th paragraph a state of things which has no existence. The lack of accuracy in observing facts perhaps accounts for Dr.Burgess's acceptance as such of the items of gossip which he has thought fit to incorporate in his strongly-expressed letter."[2]

45. The foregoing correspondence has been dealt with at length in this manner not so much to show the way in which an official of the Government of India thought fit to criticise

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[1] G.O.No.1160 Public, dated 5th June 1886, pages 2-3.
[2] Idem. page 3.

criticise the action of this Government but chiefly to show that the arrangement now proposed by the 1945 Committee may also come in hereafter for criticism from archaeologists of the Government of India and the provinces. This will however be discussed in detail in a subsequent part of this note.

46. Shortly after this controversy excavations were begun again at Amaravati, this time under Dr.Alexander Rea, Firt Assistant of the Archaeological Survey Department. Numerous stones were unearthed by Dr. Rea.[1] Such of these as bore inscriptions or sculptures were also transferred to the Museum in 1891.[2] Out of these sculptures two pattern rails with two rows of rosettes measuring in the aggregate 45 feet were erected in 1892-93.[3] Another portion of the rail 43 feet long and 15 feet high with three rows of rosettes and cornices was also erected in 1894-95.[4] This work of reconstruction was done under the guidance and instructions of Dr. Rea himself who, it is interesting to note, did not object to the use of cement in the work.[5] It might therefore have been thought that this work, at any rate, would not have come in for more criticism from the archaeological experts of the Government of India. But, as a matter of fact, this arrangement of the sculptures was also disapproved, though this time the disapproval was not expressed in terms as strong as those which were used by Dr.Burgess. In 1911, that is, more than 15 years after the rails had been reconstructed, Dr.Vogel, the officiating Director General of Archaeology in India, paid a visit to the Museum and shortly afterwards forwarded to the Government, through the Government of India, a memorandum in the course of which he pointed out various defects in the way in which the Amaravati marbles had been arranged in the Museum. He began by saying that a number of sculptures which"would be considered an ornament to any archaeological museum in England and on the continent" were lying neglected "face upwards on an

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[1] G.O.No.308 Public, dated 3rd April 1889
[2] " 417 " " 28th May 1891; G.O.No.465 Public,dated 13th June 1891; G.O.No.524 Public, dated 30th June 1891.
[3] G.O.No.1753 Public Works Department, dated 13th June 1892; G.O.No.478-478A Revenue, dated 6th June 1893.
[4] G.O.No.414-414A Revenue, dated 2nd July 1895.
[5] G.O.No.417 Public, dated 28th May 1891.

earth bank in the museum compound." He then proceeded: "The arrangement of the sculptures inside the building is also open to grave objections. The archaeological section consists of one farily large room and a dark and narrow passage. The larger part of the section is taken up by the Amaravati sculptures. In exhibiting them, an attempt has been made to reconstruct the grand Stupa railing to which most of the sculptures originally belonged. Such a restoration is, of course, extremely, useful in making the connection between the different members at once understood, but from a scientific point of view it is only permissible if the original position of the various pieces is known. I doubt whether this was the case here, as the sculptures were not found in situ. Anyhow, the present arrangement is objectionable for other more obvious reasons. The reconsturcted railing intercepts the light and most of the sculptures are placed in such a way as to be inaccessible to the camera. The worst is that they have been fixed in cement and it will be no easy matter to rearrange them."[1]

47. Dr.Vogel's memorandum was forwarded by the Government to the Superintendent, Government Museum, for his remarks. Dr. Henderson, the Superintendent, at once pointed out that if there was any fault in the reconstructed rail the Archaeological Survey Department was responsible for it. He said: "Out of these sculptures (those received in 1890 and 1891 from Dr. Rea's excavations) two pattern rails aggregating 45 feet in length were erected by the Archaeological Survey Department and a further selection was made in order to erect a larger portion of rail which was subsequently complete .... It would appear that in these arrangements the Archaeological Department was consulted and its advice followed."[2] Dr.Henderson however admitted that the third rail, which was built in the annexe leading to the archaeological gallery, and which contained some of the best preserved and the most interesting of the Amaravati

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[1] G.O.No.604 Education, dated 30th August 1911, page 3 paragraphs 6-7.

[2] Idem. page 7 paragraph 4.

sculptures, was open to objection as it was placed in a somewhat dark passage and shut out the light from the gallery.[1]

48. Only a very few sculptures seem to have been unearthed at Amaravati after Dr. Rea's excavations. However in 1909 it was brought to the notice of the Government that some idols and a small gold 'dagoba' with flowers had been discovered by a Surveyor in 1908. These were acquired under the Treasure Trove Act and transferred to the Museum. The number of sculptures brought to the Museum as a result of the excavations made from time to time was so large that it was found difficult to find accommodation for all of them in the galleries. Some of the sculptures had been presented to the British Museum in 1885.[2] Still several of them were, as pointed out by Dr.Vogel, lying on the earth in the compound for want of space. It was therefore one of Dr.Vogel's suggestions that the duplicates should be distributed to other museums. He said, "Here I wish to point out also that a certain number of Amaravati sculptures would form a most valuable addition to the Indian Museum, Calcutta. The Imperial Museum is intended to contain specimens of all classes of Indian antiquities, so that students of archaeology will be able to study there the history of ancient Indian art and civilization in all its phases. At present the Amaravati sculptures are only represented by a few casts, and the total want of original sculptures of that school is one of the most conspicuous gaps in the Calcutta collections. I must, however, add that I do not wish to advise the Madras Government to send away any but replicas (of which there are a considerable number) sothat the local collection will remain as representative as it is now. Among the Amaravati sculptures placed outside the museum, I have already marked some which ought to go to Calcutta. But in case my proposals, involving a complete re-arrangement of the Amaravati collection, are accepted, I should prefer to postpone a definite selection, as among the sculptures exhibited in the present gallery also I noticed some duplicates."[3] Dr.Henderson did not object to

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[1] G.O.No.604 Education, dated 30th August 1911, page 7 paragraph 4

[2] G.O.No.946 Public, dated 17th April 1885.

[3] G.O.No.604 Education, dated 30th August 1911, page 5 paragraphs 21-22-

this suggestion for the distribution of duplicates. The Government however deprecated the despatch of such specimens to countries outside India and considered that none should be sent to other museums until a thoroughly representative collection had been arranged for the Madras Museum. They stated that the distribution of duplicates to Indian museums might be considered after the collection had been properly catalogued and labelled.[1]

49. It is perhaps strange that, in spite of the admitted importance of these marbles, and the serious controversy which arose in connection with their proper care and display, no attempts should have been made for a long time to prepare a descriptive catalogue of them. Dr. Vogel had pointed out this defect. A short list had indeed been prepared in 1853 by Dr. Taylor describing the marbles which were then in the Museum, but most of these marbles had been transferred to England. For the large number of pieces which had since been added to the museum there was no list until 1914 when, at the suggestion of the Superintendent of the Museum, the Government ordered the employment of an expert to prepare a catalogue of these exhibits.[2] There is however nothing to show whether a complete descriptive list was actually prepared either in 1914 or afterwards.

50. In the light of what has been stated above it will be interesting to see whether any of the proposals made by the Committee of 1945, if carried out, are likely to give rise to criticism in future. The first recommendation of the Committee is that "all the sculptures in the walls should be removed from their present setting (because of the presence of salts in most of them) and reassembled after chemical treatment, care being taken to arrange the sculptures according to periods". The Committee has not indicated the extent of the damage already suffered by the sculptures. There is evidence to show that these sculptures which are in limestone marble developed " a brown colouration and white incrustation which mar their beauty and gradually destroy them". The brown colouration was due to the

presence of iron and the problem of removing it was considered to be difficult. The white incrustation was due to calcium chloride and carbonates[1]. It was believed that as the sculptures had been buried under ground for a long time there were salts in their pores and that these salts were coming out slowly and forming an incrustation. It was also considered that the salts in the walls in which the sculptures were firmly fixed were also passing into the sculptures.[2] Experiments are stated to have been made by the Archaeological Chemist of the Museum to find out the best means of treating the sculptures[3], and some of them are stated to have been "treated with paper pulps to remove the salts from within the spores"[4] It is however not stated whether this treatment has been satisfactory. The Committee too has not stated whether it is possible to treat the marbles successfully. It has merely suggested that they should be treated chemically.

51. Before, however, the marbles can be treated chemically they have to be removed from their present setting. The committee has not stated whether such removal from the present setting of cement is possible at all. It will be remembered that Dr. Burgess lamented in 1885 that the marbles had been "needlessly injured by casing in a cement that can never be removed" and that Dr. Vogel stated that they had been "fixed in cement and it will be no easy matter to re-arrange them". As the marble is stated to be very brittle it is quite likely that the sculptures cannot be removed from the cement without damage. Perhaps an attempt may have to be made to remove some of the unimportant pieces before deciding upon the removal of the rest.

52. Granting that the sculptures can be successfully removed from the cement and treated chemically it has next to be considered whether they ought to be reassembled as suggested by the Committee or encased in air-tight glass cases as suggested by the Superintendent.[5] The Committee has not stated anything about

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[1] G.O.No.604 Education, 30th August 1911, page 9, paragraph 3.
[2] G.O.No.442-443 Education, dated 21st April 1914.

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[1] G.O.No.1760 Education, dated 3rd July 1931, page 3.
[2] " 1727 " " 30th July 1934, page 3.
[3] " 1766 " " 2nd August 1939
[4] " 852 " " 2nd June 1941, page6.
[5] C.F. page 25.

about the glass cases evidently because glass cases cannot be used if the sculptures are to be reassembled. As to the method of reassembling, the Committee has proposed (1) that the sculptures should be arranged according to periods, (2) that the rail should be realigned east to west to admit light falling on it (3) that the rail and the base of the drum should be rearranged to make them look more like the original and (4) that the pit near the reconstructed rail must be filled up after removing the sculptures. The value of arranging the sculptures according to periods was recognized even in 1884, but the idea was given up as there was not sufficient space to do so.[1] There cannot be any objection to a chronological arrangement provided there is space enough for that purpose. In regard to the realignment of the rail the Committee has not stated which of the 3 rails is meant. The reference to the admission of light, however, seems to indicate that it is the rail which was erected in the corridor to the annexe in 1894 that is meant. The suggestion to rearrange this rail in such a manner that more light will fall upon it appears no doubt to be a good suggestion. But before the rail is rearranged it has to be considered whether the Archaeological authorities may not hereafter take exception to such rearrangement. It will be remembered that the arrangement of the rail in question made in 1894 was objected to by Dr.Vogel on the ground that from a scientific point of view any reconstruction of the rail is "only permissible if the original position of the various pieces is known" and that in this case the original position of the pieces was not known.[2] Dr.Burgess also denied that there was any definite information about the exact position of the sculptures. It will therefore be desirable to consider the question of arranging the sculptures in the form of rails more carefully before passing orders upon it. The objections to the arrangement of the rail apply also to the arrangement of the drum. The Committee states that the rail and the base of the drum should be rearranged to

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[1] Please see paragraph 43 above.

[2] Please see paragraph 46 above.

to make them more like the "original". The Archaeological authorities have, as has already been pointed out, held the opinion that nobody can say what the original looked like. This suggestion may also therefore have to be considered more carefully before passing orders on it. The next suggestion, namely, that of filling up the pit in the gallery after removing the sculptures seems to be entirely unexceptionable. It will be remembered that this pit was made a subject of ridicule by Dr.Burgess when he compared it to a bath or a trap. The Committee's recommendation for the removal of some of the sculptures into the old Oriental Manuscripts building and the weeding out of duplicates require no remarks. The suggestion to employ a modeller to prepare a model of the Amaravati stupa is not perhaps entirely unobjectionable in view of what has already been stated about the want of definite information about the original.

ZOOLOGICAL GALLERIES.

53. The zoological galleries of the Museum have been extremely popular among the members of the public from very early times. In fact the great popularity of the Museum in its early days was to a large extent due to the existence of its collection of animals, not stuffed animals alone but living animals also. It is recorded that as early as 1854 the greatest attraction of the Museum was the Zoological Department, particularly the section containg the reptiles. Writing about this Dr. Balfour said, "For a month or two in 1854 a young cheeta and young tiger were kept in the Museum and visitors came to see them from eight and ten miles round about. The sudden decrease in the number of visitors which took place on the removal of the tiger and cheeta induced me, as an experiment, to ask His Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic to send to the Museum all the wild animals in his possession. The visitors who had been 12,240 in January and 14,066 in February and 12,507 in March decreased to 8670 in April, but on receipt of His Highness

the Nabob's menagerie the numbers rose to 12138 in May and 14,720 in June .... I feel assured, and the opinion of others support me in the belief, that a Zoological collection, I mean a collection of living animals, would be a source of great attraction to the Natives and even to the European races of this country and would be crowded to and from the hour of its establishment. Little as the Natives are at any time disposed to sight-seeing I think they would pay for permission to witness such a collection and about a hundred thousand people a year might pay one anna each being an annual revenue of Rupees 6625".[1] A collection of living animals thus became part of the Museum, but after a few years the occupants of the neighbouring houses began to complain that the presence of the animals was a nuisance to them. Accordingly they were removed in 1862 to the People's Park which had then been newly formed and there they remain to this day.[2] An attempt, however, seems to have been made again to keep a small collection of live animals and birds. In 1894 the entrance hall was utilized for the exhibition in suitable cages of a variety of animals (mostly snakes) which live in Madras or its vicinity. These proved to be not only a very great source of attraction to visitors both educated and uneducated but also useful for the purpose of study of their habits and distinguishing characteristics.[3] A number of birds, small animals and fishes were therefore added to the collection in 1897.[4] Though this collection was very popular among the visitors it seems to have been discontinued after a few years.

54. It has been stated above that the zoological collections were the collections which attracted people most. This was the case even after the live animals were removed from the Museum and the stuffed animals and birds and their skeletons alone were exhibited. Attempts, have however, been made in the past to render even these stuffed specimens more attractive.

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1. Report of the Central Museum 1853, please see pages 6-7 of the report for the 2nd half-year of 1854.
2. G.O.No.944 Public, dated 9th August 1862.
3. G.O.No.414-414A Revenue, 2nd July 1895, paragraph 15.
4. G.O.No.555-556 Education, dated 1st September 1898, pages 8-9.

In 1894, the Superintendent observed that the gallery occupied only by "cases containing melancholy rows of stuffed animals and birds has always been the weak spot in the Museum open to adverse criticism." He therefore tried to render the appearance of the gallery more attractive to the casual visitor by means of framed photographs, coloured pictures and woodcuts of the mammals and birds and by the exhibition of the larger horned animals like the bison and the sambar mounted on shields. He also placed in cases a group of flying foxes on the branches of a tree, the nests and eggs of the pariah kite and the crow in the forks of the trees on which the birds built, nests of the weaver bird pendent from the leaf of a palm etc. For the sake of sportsmen a case containing the various kinds of snipes was also arranged by him.[1] Attempts like these were made in subsequent years also.[2] In 1915 no less than half a dozen groups were arranged in the gallery,[3] but it was soon found that such arrangements were taking up too much space. "These realistic groups", the Superintendent observed in his annual administration report of that year, "which are among the most popular exhibits in the Museum take up a considerable amout of space and for this reason will unfortunately have to be discontinued. The overcrowding already referred to in this report is nowhere more apparent than in the Natural History Section and with the space at present available little more can be done than to add sparingly to the general collections".[4] Although the formation of realistic groups was thus discontinued their importance was not lost sight of. In 1918 when proposals were made for constructing an extension to the zoological gallery one of the reasons advanced for the extension was that it would provide more space for additional exhibits to illustrate the natural surroundings and habits of common South Indian animals.[5] Again, as recently as 1939, the Superintendent, Dr. Gravely, reported that "if staff and resources permitted much more could be done towards showing specimens in

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1. G.O.No.414-414A Revenue, dated 2nd July 1895, pages 4-5.
2. G.O.No.792 Education, dated 19th July 1915, page 7.
3. G.O.No.785 Education, dated 18th July 1916, page 7.
4. Idem. page 7.
5. Please see paragraph 22 of the note on buildings.

in their natural surroundings thus making them both more instructive and more attractive."[1] It is stated that in this respect the Bombay Museum has stolen a march over the Madras Museum.

55. The Committee has now recommended that there ought to be more habitat groups but it has not stated whether there will be adequate space in the galleries for arranging such groups. Since the formation of the groups was previously discontinued soley for want of space it is clear that unless there is plenty of space now it will be difficult to give effect to the Committee's recommendation.

MUMISMATICS.

56. Although the collection of coins and medals in the Madras Museum is not so well-known as some of the other collections in it, this collection can by no means be said to be unimportant. In 1940 it was stated to number 46746 specimens of which 6783 were gold, 6928 silver, 25302 copper and 7733 miscellaneous coins.[2] When these coins are properly listed they may perhaps attract greater attraction than at present.

57. At the time of the organization of the Museum the collection of coins was, just like the other collections, very small. In 1853 it is stated to have contained only 1643 specimens.[3] Additions were however made to it from time to time by purchases, by donations and by other means. In 1854 the Accountant-General was ordered to send specimens of all coins current and uncurrent available in the General Treasury. In 1866 a collection of coins, chiefly foreign, which were kept in the Madras Mint for purposes of assay

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1. G.O.No.1766 Education, dated 2nd August 1939, page 2.
2. " 578 " " 16th April 1941, page 65.
3. Report on the Central Museum 1853, please see Appendix 13, page 28.

assay were ordered to be transferred to the Museum along with the cabinet in which they were kept.[1] In the same year the Government sent to the Museum three gold medals which had been struck in commemmoration of the capture of Seringapatam and which were lying undelivered ever since 1808 in the "Strong Almirah in the Government Record Office".[2] They also sent a bronze medal and a large Company's seal made of brass. The seal is however now stated to be not forth-coming.[3] At this time Mr.Maneckjee Sorabjee, a gentleman of Bombay, presented to the Museum a small collection of coins, which though consisting of only copper coins, was received as "an acceptable addition to the Museum Cabinet."[4] Purchases of coins which were made from time to time are too many to be mentioned, but it may be interesting to note that among the early purchases were the collections of Major G.G.Pearse of the Royal Artillery, an accomplished numismatist,[5] and what was known as the 'White King' collection. The latter was a famous collection which was sold in auction at Amsterdam and which contained several rare South Indian Coins of which one alone was worth more than Rs.100.[6] Systematic efforts were also made through the Government of India to procure from the Indian States all over India specimens of all the coins which were current in them.[7] Agents were also sometimes employed to purchase useful coins.[8] A number of coins must also have been acquired from time to time under the provisions of the Treasure Trove Act. A suggestion was made to the Government as early as 1865 by the Collector of Vizagapatam that the Government should be authorized by law to acquire coins of archaeological interest found in treasure trove. The Government promised to bring this suggestion to the notice of the Government of India.[9] It was, however, only in 1885 that the Government of India issued instructions for the compulsory acquisition, under the Treasure Trove Act, of "the whole of any

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1. G.O.No.156 Public, dated 13th February 1866.
2. " 1232 " " 5th December 1866.
3. " 1401 Law (Education) dated 13th August 1925, page 7.
4. " 445 Public, dated 1st May 1866.
5. " 956 Public, dated 22nd August 1864; G.O.1071 Public, ~~Rub~~ dated 22nd September 1864.
6 " 534 Public, dated 30th August,1904.
7. " 870 " " 23rd August 1865.
8. " 1243 " " 2nd December 1865.
9. " 1054 " " 11th October 1865.

any coins found, whether gold, silver or copper that appear to be old and not of British Mintage", and for the examination of such coins and their distribution among the various Museums and Asiatic Societies in India.[1]

58. All the collections in the Museum are valuable but, while some, like the bronze collection and the sculpture collection, are valuable chiefly as works of art or archaeology and some like the pre-historic collections are valuable only in the eyes of learned men, the coin collection is valuable from several points of view. Though its greatest value is to the student of history and archaeology it has also a value to the collector of coins and above all it has an intrinsic metal value which makes it an object of attraction to persons who care for nothing more than the value of the gold or silver contained in it. In fact the greatest danger to the coins comes from thieves who are only after the gold and silver and who will put even the rarest and most precious coins into the melting pot without compunction. That this is no imaginary danger is shown by the wholesale burglary of all the gold and silver coins of the Patna Museum in 1937[2] and by the theft of a number of valuable coins which occurred in the Madras Museum itself in 1906. About this theft Dr.Thurston who was then the Superintendent of the Museum wrote as follows. "It is with deep regret that I have to place on record a serious burglary and the abstraction of a large number of coins, mostly gold, very many of which possessed great historic interest, and cannot be replaced. The burglary was rendered possible by the erection, without my knowledge, of a bamboo staircase for the work-people engaged in the construction of the annexe to the marine gallery. This rendered access to the upper story of the museum old building, on which the room containing the coin-cases is situated, possible at night. The most severe loss is that of a large number of the splendid series of Roman Imperial Solidi and denarii which has gradually been brought together under the Treasure Trove Act or by purchase. The coins from the time of Claudius to that of Commodus, including those of Nero, Domitian, Hadrian, etc.,

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1. G.O.No.156 Public, dated 21st January 1885.
2. " 1836 Education, dated 12th August 1939.

have disappeared almost in toto and the series is hopelessly crippled though the coins of the earlier and later emperors remain. Other series, from which coins have been removed, include the English East India Company, Moghul Emperors, Patan kings of Delhi, Kalachuris of Mahakosala, Travancore and Venetian sequins. The burglars are at large and none of the coins have been recovered."[1] No other case of theft appears to have occurred subsequently, but, as recently as 1940, it has been stated that it is undesirable to publish the particulars of the coins in the Museum until the arrangements to secure the collection against theft are completed.[2]

59. The Superintendents of the Museum have therefore naturally been forced to pay particular attention to the safety of the coins. In the beginning, when the collection was small, the coins were kept in "iron lined glass cases" exposed to public view,[3] but even at that time the danger of keeping the collection, which was stated to possess a scientific value of several thousands of rupees and a gold and silver value of not less than Rs.2000, in the showcases was recognized.[4] As early as 1859 Dr.Balfour, the organizer of the Museum, suggested that an arrangement might be made by which the cases could be lowered at night through a trap door below them by means of a pulley into the vaults below the building.[5] The Superintending Engineer however had a different idea, viz., that of "providing an iron shield to wrap the coin cases in every night". As Dr.Balfour agreed with this idea it was executed.[6]

60. In 1866 the Superintendent desired to have a new coin cabinet made by the Barrack Master. He said: "The present method of keeping the coins in glass cases exposed to public view is very unsafe and differs from that in use in every Museum in Europe where the coins are kept in shallow drawers in a strong cabinet enclosed by folding doors and the coins can only be examined in the presence of the officer in charge or an equally trustworthy

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1. G.O.No.464 Education dated 19th July 1907, pages 5-6.
2. " 578 " " 16th April 1941, page 66.
3. " 507 Public, dated 18th May 1866.
4. Idem.
5. G.O.No.38 Public, dated 11th January 1859.
6. Idem.

subordinate. This plan should be adopted here and the first step will be the making of the cabinet for which I now ask. I need not observe that the value of a coin is often many hundred per cent beyond the intrinsic value of the metal. I have, for instance, a Rupee in the Museum for which Rupees 25 were paid, but only one other copy of this coin is known to be in existence, and if this were stolen it could not be replaced. The present method of keeping the coins exposed to public view is a standing temptation to the needy and evil disposed and should be abandoned as early as possible".[1] The Government thereupon ordered the Barrack Master to make a special cabinet for the coins.

61. But even the cabinet seems to have been found to be unsafe, when placed in the rooms with other exhibits. A special room therefore appears to have been shortly afterwards set apart for coins and admission to it seems to have been restricted only to persons who were really interested in the collection.[2] Rules also were framed to restrict the number of persons who could inspect the coins at a time. According to these rules a visitor had to apply to one of the Curators for permission to see the coins and the 'safe' containing the coins (perhaps the cabinet mentioned above) was to be opened only by a Curator. The standing Order read as follows. "The safe containing the coins is only to be opened by a Curator who must be attended by a senior Humal. Only two visitors at a time are to be allowed to enter the room to see the coins".[3] But subsequently even this rule was considered to be inconsistent with the safety of the coins inasmuch as there was the possibility of persons collecting at the door and, while the safe was open, rushing in and overpowering the attendants and carrying off the coins. The Superintendent therefore suggested that no one should be allowed to inspect the coins except between the hours of 7 and 9 A.M. and that persons desiring to see the coins should previously apply to

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1. G.O.No.507 Public, dated 18th May 1866.
2. " 225 " " 19th April 1882.
3. Idem.

to him. He said, "These rules may seem a little stringent after the laxity that has hitherto obtained, but they are in my opinion absolutely necessary and are less rigid than those that exist in English Museums with reference to coin collections." He added, "As a rule the people who ask to see the coins do so simply out of idle curiosity while the collection has become so rich as to offer very great temptation and it need hardly be said that its loss would be irreparable."[1] The restriction suggested by the Superintendent was approved by the Government and was ordered to be notified in the Fort St. George Gazette.[2] Two iron safes were subsequently purchased for keeping the coins, but in spite of all these precautions, some of the coins as has already been described, were stolen. Notwithstanding this theft adequate measures do not seem to have been taken for the safety of the coins till now. With the object of finding out the measures adopted in other Museums the Government in 1941 addressed the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay, and the Indian Museum, Calcutta.[3] The reply from the Prince of Wales Museum showed that the arrangement made in that Museum was as follows: "The classified coins are kept in trays which are accommodated in small cabinets which are placed on the shelves of large cupboards which are arranged along the walls of a specially constructed strong room with a safe-deposit door. The cabinets and cupboards are separately locked and the keys of these are kept in a locked case in the strong room itself. All other coin either unassigned or brought to the Museum for examination by dealers and Collectors are also kept in the strong room. The strong room as part of the Museum is under watch of the Museum guards and staff by night and by day and the Curator holds the keys of the room".[4] The practice prevailing in the Indian Museum, Calcutta, was stated to be as follows: "The coin room of the Indian Museum does not form part of the galleries and is not open to the public. It is a strong room provided with a heavy grating door and thick iron bars. All necessary steps have been taken since 1939 to make this room

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1. G.O.No.225 Public, dated 19th April 1882.
2. Idem.
3. G.O.No.578 Education, dated 16th April 1941, pages 1-2.
4. Idem. page 3.

room absolutely burglar proof. The provision of armed guard for the room is just now engaging the attention of the Government of India. In this room all our gold coins and other valuables including a large number of gems and jewels are kept in iron safes while silver and copper coins are arranged in wooden cabinets and kept in steel almirahs. The keys of the room are held by the Senior Assistant Curator while those of the iron safes and steel almirahs are kept by the Superintendent; as such no coins or other valuables can be taken out of the safes and almirahs without the presence of both the Superintendent and the Assistant Curator."[1]

62. In regard to the rules for the admission of visitors to the coin rooms the Prince of Wales Museum stated that no specific conditions were made and that scholars and numismatists were allowed to see the coins in which they might be interested in the presence of the Curator in the coin room.[2] The Indian Museum however had an elaborate set of rules. These restricted the inspection of the coins to distinguished visitors and scholars and required application to be made 3 days in advance. They provided for the opening of the coin rooms only in the presence of 2 officers of the Archaeological Section and for not admitting more than five persons at a time in the room. Visitors were forbidden to touch any of the coins. Some relaxation of the rules was however made in the case of bona-fide students of archaeology.[3]

63. The replies of the Indian Museum and the Prince of Wales Museum were forwarded to the Superintendent, Government Museum, and he was asked to explain the practice prevailing in the Madras Museum and to state how far the practice in the other two Museums could be followed.[4] The Superintendent then reported as follows: "The coin room here is an old office room in the most inaccessible part of the rear building difficult to be watched and badly requiring to be strengthend

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1. G.O.No.578 Education, dated 16th April 1941, page 15.
2. Idem. page 5.
3. Idem. pages 17 and 25.
4. Idem.

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strengthened before it can be regarded as even moderately safe. The gold and silver coins are kept in four safes in the coin room and copper coins in the Curator's room. The keys of the coin safes were, until I took charge from Dr.Gravely, in the custody of the Curator, Numismatic Section, a duplicate set being kept in a sealed cover in the Superintendent's safe in his office room. The keys of the doors of the coin room and of another door leading to it were kept with other office keys. The Curator was thus mainly responsible for the safety of the collection. Now the safes are opened in the presence of both the Curator and myself and the keys of the room are in the custody of the Personal Assistant. .... Ordinarily visitors have no access to the coin collection. Scholars and others interested are permitted to see the collection by previous appointment with the Curator, Numismatic Section and in his presence."[1] He added "I have seen the coin rooms at both Bombay and Calcutta. Ours is in every way defective and requires immediate improvement."[2] The Government seem to have recognized the need for the construction of a strong room, but the work seems to have been deferred in view of the War.[3] Some instructions, however, seem to have been issued for the proper custody and care of the coin collection in 1944.[4] The paper relating to this is however not available in the Madras Record Office.

64. The Committee of 1945 has not stated any thing about this aspect of the Numismatic section. It has merely recommended that the post of the Curator of the Numismatic section should be revived and this will be dealt with subsequently in its proper place. The Superintendent has stated that in the opinion of the Consulting Architect the strong room to be built for the coins ought not to be an isolated building.[5] He has therefore suggested that it might be located in the north eastern wing of the new block B, the construction of which was approved in 1929 but has

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1. G.O.No.578 Education, dated 16th April 1941, page 30.
2. Idem. page 31.
3. Idem. page 80.
4. C.F. page 23.
5. Idem.

has been pending execution ever since.[1] Details of the strong room have not been furnished by him, but the details can perhaps be worked out by the officials of the Public Works Department with reference to the details of the strong rooms of Bombay and Calcutta given above. All that is required is that the room should be capable of withstanding attempts at burglary. The Superintendent has stated that a large number of "coin cabinets of recognized pattern" will be required. In addition to these some steel almirahs or safes may also be required to accommodate the cabinets. The Government have already ordered that "the Superintendent should himself keep the keys of all the coin safes to ensure that the safes are opened only in his presence."[2] The only point therefore for consideration is whether provision should be made for a system of double lock as in the treasuries and the Indian Museum.

65. It is needless to say that the safety of the coins cannot be assured by these means alone and that a proper system of registering the coins regularly and checking them periodically should also be introduced and enforced. The system of registering the coins was extremely defective for a long time. In fact it seems to have been placed on a proper footing only in recent years. At first the accessions do not seem to have been recorded at all.[3] From 1868 onwards the donations of coins began to be recorded in the Annual Administration Reports.[4] Later on in 1881, a 'donation register' was opened, but this, as the name shows, was only intended for registering coins acquired by donations.[5] Coins acquired by other means were not recorded anywhere. In 1911 a General accession register was opened but this was also not satisfactory because all the articles received into the Museum were entered in it and not the coins alone.[6] It was only in 1919 that, under the instructions of Mr. Dodwell, the first Curator of the Madras Record Office,

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[1] C.F. page 23.
[2] G.O.No.578 Education, dated 16th April 1941, page 39.
[3] G.O.No.1401 Law (Education), dated 13th August 1925, pages 2-3.
[4] Idem. page 2.
[5] Idem.
[6] Idem.

a special coin accession register was opened.[1] All coins acquired thereafter, whether by donation or by purchase or by any other means, have been entered in this register.[2] The Government have lately ordered that this accession register should also show the weight of the coins.[3] The procedure followed after the registration has been described by the Superintendent in 1941 thus: "After the registration of the coins the Curator classifies them reserving the best specimens for the museum collection and setting apart the available balance for distribution to other museums and for sale to the public. Coins received from other provinces as presentations are similarly dealt with, duplicates being set apart for sale. When a sufficient number of coins for distribution has accummulated, the Curator makes a list of such coins. The list is duly printed and circulated to other museums and durbars according to the standard distribution list; requesting them to communicate their requirements within a prescribed date. On receipt of the replies, the Curator allocates the number of coins to be given to each institution, handing over the coins at the same time to the head clerk for distribution. Coins left over after distribution are set apart for sale. A sale list is published in the Fort St. George Gazette and copies of the list are sent to numismatists and others interested. Separate registers are maintained of the stock of coins kept on sale, and of the sales made, the Head Clerk being given charge of the sales. The sales registers are checked by the Personal Assistant each time a remittance of sale proceeds is sent to the Bank."[4] The Government were not however satisfied with these arrangements. They considered that "the first essential is to maintain a regular stock register of coins showing the holdings under each class which could be the basis of all checking". They ordered that such a stock register should be immediately opened and that all the coins already classified should be entered in it. They also ordered that the classification of the remaining coins should be expedited.[1] The work of classification seems to have been completed in 1942.[2] The Superintendent has been ordered to conduct a test check of some of the coins every year.[3] In addition to this the Collector of Madras has also been ordered to check the stock of coins during the annual inspection which he has now been ordered to make.[4]

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[1] G.O.No.1401 Law (Education), dated 13th August 1925, page 2
[2] G.O.No.578 Education, dated 16th April 1941, pages 29-30.
[3] Idem. page 39.
[4] Idem. page 31.

66. The only item of work connected with the coins which remains to be dealt with is the listing or cataloguing. As the educational value of the collections in a museum depends to a large extent upon the correct classification and description of the exhibits contained in it and the publication of descriptive lists or catalogues, the importance of this item of work is beyond dispute. This work of course has not been neglected by the Museum though, it is by no means complete. For instance, the following books and pamphlets dealing with particular sets of coins were issued before 1924.

Catalogue of Coins.

1874	Catalogue of coins of Government Central Museum, Madras	G.Bidie.
1888	Catalogue of Mysore Coins	E.Thurston.
1888	Catalogue of Roman Indo-Portuguese and Ceylon Coins	-Do-
1890	Catalogue of Coins of the British East India Company	-Do-
1893	Catalogue of Coins of the Sultans of Delhi	-Do-
1921	Catalogue of Coins of Haidar Ali & Tipu Sultan	J.R.Henderson.

But this covered only 900 coins out of a total of 52,000 cois which were then estimated to be in the collection (The actual number was later on found to be only 46,746 even in 1940). Of course it was recognized that duplicates need not be described and it was estimated that four-fifths of the collections were duplicates, but a great deal of work had to be done by experts before this could be determined. In any case it was believed that not less than four or five thousand coins would have to

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1. G.O.No.578 Education dated 16th April 1941, page 39.
2. Idem. page 32.
3. Idem. page 39.
4. G.O.No.1870 Education, dated 2nd December 1941.

to be arranged and catalogued. This state of affairs was considered to be extremely unsatisfactory by the Government. Dr. Gravelly therefore proposed the employment of an Assistant to attend to this work. After some discussion the Government sanctioned a temporary post of Assistant on Rs.250/- per month for this work and appointed Sri R.Srinivasa Raghava Ayyangar, the Archaeological Assistant, to this post. The Superintendent was ordered to see that the work was done on proper lines, that the existing lists were utilised as far as possible and that the gold and silver coins were taken up first. This was in 1925.[1]

67. Although it was believed at first that the work could be finished in 3 or 4 years it was ultimately found that it would take a number of years. The post was therefore continued from year to year until 1929 when it was made permanent.[2] Three years afterwards Sri Srinivasa Raghava Ayyangar died suddenly leaving the work half finished.[3] As a suitable person could not be found to fill up the vacancy, the post was held in abeyance and the offer of Sri T.G.Aravamuthan, an advocate, to work as a part-time officer was accepted.[4] After a few years it was found that the work was not progressing under this arrangement as well as it should. The Superintendent therefore proposed in 1940 that the full time post might be revived and that it might be filled up by recruiting a suitable candidate and giving him adequate training.[5] The proposal was pressed by Dr. Gravely's Successor, Dr.Aiyapan, the present Superintendent.[6] The necessity for reviving the post was fully recognized by the Government, but the proposal was not approved, as it was not regarded as a matter of urgency.[7] It is the revival of this post that the Committee has now recommended.

68. In 1929 when applying for the permanent retention of this post, Dr.Gravely, the then Superintendent, explained that the additional post was permanently required not so much for completing the work connected with the coins as for attending

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1. G.O.No.1401 Law (Education), dated 13th August 1925, pages 54-5.
2. " 609 Education, dated 27th March 1929.
3. " 1224 Law (Education, dated 26th August 1932, pages 54
4. Idem. page 5.
5. G.O.No.1761 Education, dated 11th September 1940.
6. " 578 " " 16th April 1941, page 97.
7. Idem. page 81.

attending to several important items of work connected with the archaeological section which had fallen in arrears for want of adequate assistance.[1] He said: "Unless the additional post can be retained permanently I see no hope that the standard we are now reaching can be maintained and I consider it inevitable that in a few years there will be a repetition of the confusion from which we are now slowly emerging."[2] The Government recognised that there was considerable force in this argument and accordingly made the post permanent.[3] But, as has been stated above, the post has been held in abeyance ever since the death of Sri Srinivasa Raghava Ayyangar in 1932. There is nothing in the records to show whether this has resulted in the confusion apprehended by Dr.Gravely. Nor has the Committee and the present Superintendent pointed out any reasons for reviving the post. It is therefore for the consideration of the Government whether the post should be sanctioned only temporarily for completing the work connected with the coins or whether it should be revived and placed on a permanent footing.

ILLITERATE VISITOR.

69. The Museum has been doing a great deal for the instruction of the literate visitor from very early times. As early as 1873 Dr.Bidie began to deliver popular lecturers with the help of the exhibits in the Museum. This practice was greatly developed by his successors who, besides the lectures, organized demonstrations and conducted tours. But these activities were intended solely for the benefit of the pupils and students in the educational institutions and the learned men. Nothing seems to have been done for the illiterate visitor. This was because it was believed that nothing could be done for him.

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[1] G.O.No.609 Education, dated 27th March 1929, pages 1-7.

[2] Idem. page 5.

[3] Idem. page 17.

70. The problem of educating the illiterate visitors to the Museums in India seems to have been considered for the first time in 1914. In that year in view of a recommendation made by the conference of Orientalists held at Simla in 1914 the Government of India desired to find out whether it was possible to make arrangements "for the greater utilization of the museums for educational purposes".[1] The Trustees of the Indian Museum, Calcutta thereupon submitted a report in the course of which they considered carefully the question of educating the masses through the Museum. They observed as follows: "The trustees consider that Dr.Denning's instance of the 'Universities' extension lecture schemes in England' is in no sense applicable to India, popular education not having as yet reached in this country a stage at which any similar scheme would prove of the slightest utility. The arrangement of the specimens displayed in the different sections of the museum is acknowledged to be of a high standard of efficiency, but it is certain that it can only appeal to a limited proportion of the visitors. The labels attached to the specimens are for the most part written in English and the trustees are not of the opinion that any change is at present desirable in this respect, for the great majority of the visitors are absolutely illiterate, and it makes no difference to them whether the labels are written in English, in Bengali, or in any other language. Nevertheless, the public galleries, in the opinion of the trustees, play a very important part in popular education in Calcutta, for they appeal to a stratum of society as yet practically untouched by the school master. Without in any way realizing the scientific importance or the artistic beauty of the exhibits, a very large number of poor and ignorant persons daily have their interest aroused in the museum by the contemplation of something beyond their ordinary experience. The most that the museum can do for the illiterate is to provide a vast and above all an orderly spectacle which impresses their minds and thus prepares them for the reception of new ideas. To attempt to instruct such persons in any more definite manner would merely scare them away and would, in the opinion of the trustees, be to the detriment of education.

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[1] G.O.No.1178-1178A Education, dated 15th October 1914, page 2.

They visit the museum not to be instructed but to see the 'house of magic', but the trustees do not think that the subconscious education received is by any means to be despised. The trustees may point out, moreover, that the daily attendance of visitors at the Indian museum appears to be, so far as the statistics are available, greater than that at any other museum in the world."[1] The Government of Bengal through whom this report was forwarded to the Government of India agreed with the trustees that any attempt to use the museum for the systematic instruction of the uneducated and illiterate persons who form the majority of its visitors could have no useful results.[2]

71. The report of the Trustees of the Indian Museum and the opinion of the Bengal Government were then forwarded to this Government and were referred by the Government to the Director of Public Instructions, the Superintendent of the Museum and the Registrar of the Madras University. The Director reported that the remarks of the Trustees of the Indian Museum were true in the case of the Madras Museum also.[3] The Superintendent of the Museum also agreed with the Trustees of the Indian Museum and stated that "while the Sub-conscious education received by illiterate visitors is by no means to be despised the most that a museum can do for this class is to provide a vast and above all an orderly spectacle which impresses their minds and thus prepares them for the reception of new ideas".[4] In view of this opinion nothing was done by the Museum for the education of the illiterate visitor.

72. It was more than 30 years before the question was again taken up. In 1936 the Museums Commission which had visited the Madras Museum reported upon the problem of illiterate visitors as follows: "At Madras on the occasion of the great feasts no less than 130,000 people trooped through the Museum in one day -- an orderly, happy crowd which a piece

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[1] G.O.No.1178-1178A Education, dated 15th October 1914, page 5.
[2] Idem. page 2.
[3] Idem. page 11.
[4] Idem. page 12.

piece of string stretched across a passage could divert and restrain. And although the interior of the Museum was packed and produced the inevitable accompaniment of fingered glass, betel-nut spit and dirty marks on the walls, one realized that this was one of the surest ways of interpreting the outside world to the masses of India. In this way and perhaps in this way alone can the illiterate visitor be given any conception of the world beyond his village or its nearest large town. His mental horizon cannot be expanded through the medium of books because of his illiteracy or even through the cinema because of his proverty, but the museum skilfully parades before him the accumulated treasures of a Province; though the interpretation of it is left to his native wit. We feel that one of the first requirements of the Indian Museums movement is the sympathetic study of the problem of the illiterate visitor."[1]

73. In the following year the problem was again raised by the Museums Conference held at New Delhi. This conference passed a resolution in the course of which it stated that special efforts should be made to bring the general public into closer contact with the Museums. It said, "Since the majority are illiterate and can therefore best be reached through exhibits explained by the spoken word it is essential that special guide lecturers should be provided".[2] But when this resolution was referred to the Superintendent of the Government Museum, Dr.Gravely, he stated "To enable the Museum to afford education to illiterates as Museums alone can, efficient guide lecturers fluent in the more important languages of the Province are essential. In view of the financial difficulty of adding to the staff at present, however, we decided to wait a lead from the Museum Conference where it was hoped that I might learn from other delegates of self supporting schemes that were said to be in use in certain museums in the north. All I was able to learn, however, was that such schemes proved to be impracticable, especially for illiterates in large public museums such as this. And nothing, consequently, has yet been done".[3] Since the Superintendent himself did not think

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[1] G.O.No.1708 Education, dated 29th July 1937, page 1 last paragraph.
[2] " 1790 " " 28th July 1938, page 22.
[3] Idem. pages 14-15.

it possible to appoint guide lecturers the question was again dropped.

74. The Superintendent of the Museum has now pointed out that the only way of dealing with the problem is the appointment of guide lecturers or docents as they are called in America. He states that the Nagpur Museum has already appointed a guide lecturer and that the Bombay Museum is also thinking of appointing similar lecturers.[1] As has been shown above thirty years ago it was the opinion of the experts that attempts to educate the masses directly through the museums would be fertile and that they were likely to scare them away from the Museums, but now the opinion seems to have changed and it is considered to be the duty of museums to educate them with the assistance of guide lecturers.

ART GALLERY.

75. The records show that an art gallery was begun on a small scale in 1900.[2] About this the Superintendent reported as follows "A new departure was made by the exhibition of paintings (some the property of the fine arts society) by native artists in Southern India which are of interest as showing the great progress which has been made in recent years and the advance over the old style of portraint painting with abundant introduction of gold leaf. An excellent landscape by Mr.C.Raja Raja Varma entitled "the Lohagad, one of Sivaji's mountain fortresses" was acquired by purchase. The Superintendent also reported the addition of coconut and ivory carvings a collection of China belonging to the East India Company, a pithe model of a Hindu Temple etc., to the art gallery. The collection of pictures in the art gallery however seems to have increased only very slowly. In the course of forty years only about 70 pictures seem to have been added to the

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[1] C.F. page 24.
[2] G.O.No.313-314 dated 26th July 1900.

18

the collection. In 1936 the Superintendent reported that the pictures were deteriorating and that in the absence of persons who could restore them he had on the recommendation of the Museum Commission protected them against further damage by glazing and wooden backing. The number of pictures in the Museum at present is stated to be 315. Of these no less than 241 were acquired after 1942. The proposal to inform a regular picture gallery or an art gallery at any rate, on the scale on which the Committee now propose does not appear to have been considered before, evidently because it was believed that the Museum could not undertake the big task of acquiring pictures and organizing a gallery.[1] The Committee has recommended that until a regular art gallery is organized the pictures may, in the Victoria Technical Institute, be exhibited in the rooms occupied by the Coins and ethnology stores. This will, however, be possible only if the new block B and the godowns are constructed and the coins and the ethnology stores are removed to them. This recommendation of the Committee therefore depends upon the construction of the additional buildings.

16/7/46

CURATOR.
16-7-1946.

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[1] C.F. page 20.

Remarks on Education and Public Health U.O. Reference
No.18647-7 C2 Edn., dated 11th Septr.1946.

Recd on 18/10/46.

61476
10.11.46

(69)

Recommendation 2.

(The Committee recommends that the West Wing of the first floor of the Front Buildings may be reserved for bronzes, after lighting is improved in certain parts in which it is now unsatisfactory and remodelling some of the cases so as to permit all the sides of the images being viewed by visitors.)

The entire 1st floor of the Front Building can be used for the exhibition of the bronzes, only after the additional Block is constructed. This is what the Committee had in view in making the recommendation.

Lighting cannot be sufficiently improved by the provision of sky-lights. Moreover, if this is done, the ornamental false ceiling will have to be removed in several places.

Remodelling of a large number of the cases and leaving passages behind them are impossible in the present congested condition. The Committee's recommendation about the provision of glasses at the back applies particularly to 2 long cases put against the outer wall in the Saivite and Vaishnavite Galleries. The approximate cost of replacing the back with glass will, in their case, amount to Rs.800/-. Since the Committee sent their report, the case for the Nataraja from Tiruvelangadu has been removed from its old place on the verandah to the Vishnu Idols room, as suggested by the Deputy Secretary, and it has been exhibited temporarily in a doubled case with glass on all sides. All round the case, there is a barricade put in, the object being to exhibit this bronze, without any glass covering on an ornamental pedestal. This pedestal is being designed by the Principal, School of Arts and Crafts. The presence of the Nataraja of Tiruvelangadu bronze in the Centre of this room makes it impossible to accept the Committee's recommendation about pushing the long case in this room away from the outer wall to the middle of the room. The badly lighted cases can, however, be pushed in about 9 in. from their present position and as there is already a clearance of about 1 foot now, between the back of the cases and the outer wall, a passage of 1'9" wide will enable the back of the images being examined.

The best suggestion seems to me to provide electric light in these rooms, as early as possible. The Electrical Engineer has already got plans ready for the electrification of the whole Museum buildings, but it may be executed in parts beginning immediately with the portions of the buildings as suggested by the Committee. The worst trouble now is due to reflections in badly-lighted cases, but suitable artificial lighting will remove the trouble to a very great extent. Provision of glasses on the fourth side of the most important among other bronzes will have to wait till the new Block is constructed.

Recommendation 3.

(The Committee recommends that the Amaravati gallery be re-arranged after taking out the sculptures set in the walls. The details of the arrangement will be settled lat by a Sub-Committee consisting of Mr.T.N.Ramachandran, Mr.V. Narasimhan and Dr.A.Aiyappan.)

The Catalogue of the Amaravati marbles has been

printed

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printed and published. The Curator, Madras Record Office is obviously not aware of it.

Experiments have been carried on the best ways of treating the marbles and I have got the opinion of experts on this question. Amaravati marbles in the Calcutta Museum have been treated with good results and have been given preservative coatings. The sculptures in the Madras Museum should be similarly treated.

They are to be dealt with in three groups:

A. Sculptures placed on platforms.

They raise no special problems. Chemical cleaning and exhibition under glass is all that has to be done for them.

B. Sculptures set in the walls of the room.

They have to be removed very carefully from the walls and then treated as those in Group A.

C. Sculptures built into (1) the reconstructed railing and (2) Casing of the Stupa.

These present very difficult problems and ~~involve~~ require very careful planning of the work. The slabs can be removed from the cement and then treated, though it would be very troublesome work. But there is no alternative. They should not be left to their fate any longer. I have consulted the Executive Engineer, and he agrees with me that the work of removal of the sculptures can be undertaken, but the chipping will have to be done under very close supervision.

Recommendation 5.

(The Committee recommends that the Zoological galleries should be made more attractive by habitat groups. This will involve the engagement of a museum artist.)

The habitat groups I have in view and on which the Committee made their recommendation are not the very large ones which will no doubt require a good deal of additional space, but miniature groups, for which ~~xx~~ accommodation can be found in the present galleries. The modeller proposed to be appointed will be engaged on these miniature habitat~~s~~ groups, in making plaster models of fishes, snakes etc. and also in maing realistic copies in plaster of Paris of selected bronze images for sale to the public. (The last will be a paying proposition). A number of models are also required for the Geological section. The need for the appointment of an artist-modeller is therefore a pressing one for the improvement of the Museum.

× U.O. No 2554-1/46 d/ 14-10-46.

A. Aiyappan 14.10.46
Superintendent,
Government Museum.

To

The Deputy Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department
Madras. U.O.

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131 E & P.H. Dept
C2

C.O. 18647 C2/46

Subject

Govt Museum – Proposals for Reorganisation

Dft today
6/5/47

Memo No 18647 C2/46 – 9 Edn dated 6.5.47

With reference to his interview with HM (Edn) on the above subject the S.G.M. is requested to send his report regarding the urgent suggestions that should be carried out immediately in the Govt Museum, Madras

W.
6.5.47

6/5/47

To ✓ Dft 6/5
The S.G.M. 6/5

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL.

C.F. 1

SUBJECT :—

	Date.	Initials.
When received for fair copying ..		
When copied ..		
When examined..		
When signed ..		
When despatched.		

READ AGAIN ______, dated ______ 19___

" " ______ " ______ 19___

READ *ALSO* :—

No. ______ From the ______, No. ______, dated ______ 19___

" ______ " ______ " ______ " ______ 19___

" ______ " ______ " ______ " ______ 19___

Order/Resolution Ms./Rout. No. ______, dated ______ 19___

From
Sri A. Aiyappan, M.A., Ph.D.,
Superintendent,
Government Museum,
Egmore, Madras, 8.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health
Department,
Fort St. George, Madras.

No. 1265-1/47 dated 20th May 1947.

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
21 MAY 1947

Sir,

Sub: Government Museum - Proposals for improvement.

Ref. Government Memorandum No.18647 C2/46-9 Edn., dated 6th May 1947.

— p137 ante

43086

At my interview with the Hon'ble Minister for Education on the 1st May 1947, among the various matters about the future needs of this Museum which were discussed, he wanted me to send him brief reports about the following three subjects for which I requested that the highest priority possible may be given:-

Recommendation 10 — p18 - See notes

1. Guide Lecturers to help the illiterate visitors.

Separate proposal dealt with separately. (Not in this file)

2. The provision of loud speaker arrangements for the benefit of illiterate and semi-literate visitors.
3. The question of an art gallery for Madras.

Recommendation 11 — p. 21 - See. notes

1. Guide Lecturers.

Even in European countries, where Museums serve highly literate communities, guide lecturers are employed to explain the exhibits and conduct parties round, and this service is very much appreciated. In the case of Indian Museums, a very large percentage of the visitors to which are illiterate, the need for the service of guide lecturers is indeed very pressing and most essential. According to the Markham-Hargreaves Report, "one of the first requirements of the Indian Museums movement is the sympathetic study of the problem of the illiterate visitor". Before 1936, guide lecturers were employed only by the geological section of the Indian Museum at Calcutta.

Rc
21/5

As a result of enquiries made in 1945, I understand that the Nagpur Museum has one guide lecturer and the authorities there are proposing to add two or three more; that the Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery employs two part-time lady guide lecturers; and that the Prince of Wales Museum at Bombay is also actively considering the question of the appointment of guide lecturers. The Ad Hoc Committee appointed by Government to suggest improvements to this Museum considered, at my suggestion, the question of Guide Lecturers for this Museum and unanimously recommended that two new posts of Assistant Curators to work as Guide Lecturers should be created (Recommendation 10.) The implementing of this suggestion will, without any doubt, increase the usefulness of this Museum.) The starting salary for the posts has been put at Rs.75/- per mensem to make the whole scheme financially as modest as possible.

p18 see notes

In Memorandum No.49906-1 C2.Edn dated 13th September 1946, I was informed by Government that the question of these two new posts was under consideration along with the question of an artist-modeller for the Museum.

G.O. no 10 Edn 23-1-47 [illegible]

2. Loud-speaker arrangements to play records describing important groups of exhibits in Indian languages.

//The two Guide Lecturers mentioned above will not be able to handle more than 4 or 5 batches of 15 or 20 visitors, which is only a very very small fraction of the visitors coming every day to the Museum. The work of the Guide Lecturers, therefore, has to be supplemented by mechanically reproduced explanations.

In my letter No.2164-2/46 dated 6th February '47 I submitted proposals for the installation of the public address system as an experimental measure in two halls of the Museum. The trials which I conducted with the help of the Provincial Radio Engineer were satisfactory.

[illegible] separately

3. An Art Gallery for Madras.

The question ~~of~~ whether there should be an art gallery attached to the Museum has been a subject for consideration for a long time. My predecessor, Dr. Gravely, was of the opinion that, with the existing staff and non-technical, the Museum was not in a position to venture to put up any proposal for an art gallery. He felt that some other agency such as the School of Arts should take up this question and that this Museum should then be ~~xxx~~ prepared to give away to that agency the small collection of pictures that we have now got. Though we have waited for years now no such agency has come up, and Madras still remains without an Art Gallery.

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I have been holding consultations with people in Madras, who have been feeling very strongly that something should be done to enable the poor and middle classes of this Province to see and appreciate good examples of modern art which they cannot do, except by having access to a permanent art gallery. Col.D.M.Reid who was until recently President of the South Indian Society of Painters, and also a very influential member of the Council of the Victoria Technical Institute, put forward to me the suggestion that if the Institute and the Government co-operated for the formation of an art gallery for Madras, a good beginning can be made in the near future. On 15th January 1946, Government asked ~~us~~ the Ad Hoc Committee to report if the Victoria Technical Institute Buildings will be suitable for an Art Gallery. The Committee thought that the Victoria Technical Institute Buildings were ideal for a Picture Gallery (Please see recommendation No.11 of the Committee).

PP. 63-65 ante

The next step, as I submitted to the Hon'ble Minister for Education during my interview, is to start negotiating with the Council on the following ~~xxxxx~~ points:

1. Whether the V.T.I. will agree to use their Building on the Pantheon Road as a Picture Gallery.
2. If they agree to this, whether they will agree to set apart a part of their funds towards (a) the initial expenditure and (b) the recurring expenditure of the Picture Gallery.

3. In case the Government and the Council of the V.T.I. come to an agreement, on the question of the Buildings and the funds ~~of~~ details regarding the management of the art gallery will have to be worked out.

If the V.T.I. Council agrees to the first suggestion, the most stupendous difficulty in the way of the formation of the Art Gallery, namely the cost of a large building is got over. It is hoped that the Victoria Technical Institute Council will not have any serious objection to this suggestion. From the Annual Report of the Victoria Technical Institute, it is found that its Council is keen on continuing their business in their war-time premises on the Mount Road. Establising Museums (which I presume include picture galleries) and making grants-in-aid to such Museums are among the objects mentioned in the Memorandum of Association of the Victoria Technical Institute (copy enclosed herewith and the Annual Report of the Victoria Technical Institute for 1944-45)

Not recd called for from S.G.M.

By selecting the above three as the most urgent schemes, I do not wish, however, to create the impression that the other recommendations made by the Committee are not important or very urgent. They are all very essential and the earlier they are given effect to, the better.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. Aiyappan 20/5/47
Superintendent.

Encl. 2.

E & PH (C2)

The main file on the subject has been circulated to H.M. (Edn) on 14.5.47. Hence this may lie over till its return or till 14.6.47 whichever is earlier

RC
27.5.47

27/5/47

27.5.47

(T3)

T.M. dated 11.6.47 E & PH (C2)

From The Supdt. E & PH Dept C2
To The P.A to S.G.M.

Govt. Museum. Proposals for improvement
~~Your~~ Letter No. 1265-1/47 dated ~~date~~ 20.5.47 ~~from the S.G.M.~~

p140 cf

Ind 11/6/47

p142 cf

A Copy of the Memorandum of Assn. of the Victoria Technical Institute and the annual report of the Victoria Technical Institute for 1944-45 stated to have been sent along with ~~your~~ the above letter ~~read above~~, have not been received ~~in this office~~. Please ~~forward~~ ~~furnish~~ them at an early date

RC
11.6.47

(BO)

Issue

11/6/47

Bros
Pl print 40 copies and send the clean copies at once
6.12.49.
Supdt.
6/12/49

~~Approved~~ Part II Scheme for 1948-49. E.& P.H.(C2).

161/151 Pub

74

GOVT. MUSEUM - Madras - Appointment of two Asst. Curators to work as Guide Lecturers.

--

SUMMARY.

Head of Account.	Item of expenditure.	Ultimate cost. Recurring.	Cost in 1948-49. Recurring.
36.a.Scientific Depts -a. Museums - A.Museums - 2.Pay of Establishments - ~~Voted~~.	Employment of two Asst. Curators on the scale of Rs. 90-3-120.	Rs. ~~3,055~~ 2600	(for 11 months) Rs. ~~1,980~~ 2,000
3. other charges	Dearness and cost of living allowances	500	400
	Total	3,100	2,400

An Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Govt. in 1945 to make suggestions for the improvement of the Govt. Museum, Madras, recommended among other things, the appointment of two Asst. Curators to work in the Museum as Guide Lecturers and to assist the Curators. The S.G.M. has stated that this recommendation should be implemented at an early date and regarding the necessity for the proposal has observed as follows:--

G.O. 666 Edn. 4.65
p.419 (13)
Recommn 10 on p.63 cf
p.139 cf.
pp.139-40 cf
p.139-140 cf

"Even in European countries, where Museums serve highly literate communities, guide lecturers are employed to explain the exhibits and conduct parties round, and this service is very much appreciated. In the case of Indian Museums, a ~~very~~ large percentage of the visitors to which are illiterate, the need for the service of guide lecturers is indeed very pressing and most essential. According to the Markham-Hargreaves Report, "one of the first requirements of the Indian Museums movement is the sympathetic study of the problem of the illiterate visitor". Before 1936, guide lecturers were employed only by the geological section of the Indian Museum at Calcutta. As a result of enquiries made in 1945, I understand that the Nagpur Museum has one guide lecturer and the authorities there are proposing to add two or three more; that the Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery employs two part-time lady guide lecturers; and that the Prince of Wales Museum at Bombay is also actively considering the question of the appointment of guide lecturers. The Ad Hoc Committee appointed by Government to suggest improvements to this Museum considered, at my suggestion, the question of Guide Lecturers for this Museum and unanimously recommended that two new posts of Assistant Curators to work as Guide Lecturers should be created ~~(Recommendation 10)~~. The implementing of this suggestion will, without any doubt, increase the usefulness of this Museum."

This Dept. recommends the proposal of the S.G.M. The posts of Asst Curators may be placed on the scale of pay of Rs 90-3-120. Necessary provision may be made in the B.E. for 1948-49 as shown in the summary above.

(The posts may be sanctioned for a period of one year in the first instance)

21.11.47

21-11.47

Copy

[illegible] to Press for printing

Edn.& P.H.Dept.(C2).

Part II Scheme for 1948-49.

Subj:- Government Museum - Madras - Appointment of two Assistant Curators to work as Guide Lecturers.

Summary.

Head of Account.	Item of expenditure.	Ultimate cost. Recurring.	Cost in 1948-49. Recurring. (for 11 months)
		Rs.	Rs.
36. a.Scientific Departments - a.Museums - A.Museums - 2.Pay of Establishments.	Employment of two Asst Curators on the scale of Rs.90-3-120.	2,600	2,000
3.Other charges.	Dearness and cost of Living Allowances -.	500	400
	Total.	3,100	2,400

An ad hoc Committee appointed by the Government in 1945 to make suggestions for the improvement of the Govt. Museum, Madras, recommended, among other things, the appointment of two Asst. Curators to work as Guide Lecturers and to assist the Curators in the Museum. The Superintendent, Government Museum, has stated that this recommendation should be implemented at an early date and regarding the necessity for the proposal he has observed as follows:--

> " Even in European countries where Museums serve highly literate communities, guide lecturers are employed to explain the exhibits and conduct parties round, and this service is very much appreciated. In the case of Indian Museums, a very large percentage of the visitors to which are illiterate, the need for the service of guide lecturers is indeed very pressing and most essential. According to the Markham-Hargreaves Report, "one of the first requirements of the Indian Museums movement is the sympathetic study of the problem of the illiterate visitor." Before 1936, guide lecturers were employed only by the geological section of the Indian Museum at Calcutta. As a result of enquiries made in 1945, I understand that the Nagpur Museum has one guide lecturer and the authorities there are proposing to add two or three more; that the Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery employs two part-time lady guide lecturers; and that the Prince of Wales Museum at Bombay is also actively considering the question of the appointment of guide lecturers. The ad hoc Committee appointed by Government to suggest improvements to this Museum considered, at my suggestion, the question of Guide Lecturers for this Museum and unanimously recommended that two new posts of Assistant Curators to work as Guide Lecturers should be created. The implementing of this suggestion will, without any doubt, increase the usefulness of this Museum."

This Department recommends the proposal of the Superintendent, Government Museum. The posts of Asst. Curators may be placed on the scale of pay of Rs.90-3-120. (The posts may be sanctioned for a period of one year in the ~~ex~~ first instance.) Necessary provision may be made in the Budget Estimate for 1948-49 as shown in the summary above.

(Sd) M.V.S.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

PART II SCHEME FOR 1948-9.

[SUBJECT.—*Government Museum—Madras—Appointment of two Assistant Curators to work as guide lecturers.*]

Summary.

Head of account. (1)	Item of expenditure. (2)	Recurring. Ultimate cost. (3)	 Cost in 1948-9 (for eleven months.) (4)
		RS.	RS.
36. a. Scientific departments—a. Museums— A. Museums—			
2. Pay of establishments.	Employment of two Assistant Curators on the scale of Rs. 90—3—120.	2,600	2,000
3. Other charges ..	Dearness and cost of living allowances.	500	400
	Total ..	3,100	2,400

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

An *ad hoc* Committee appointed by the Government in 1945 to make suggestions for the improvement of the Government Museum, Madras, recommended, among other things, the appointment of two Assistant Curators to work as guide lecturers and to assist the Curators in the Museum. The Superintendent, Government Museum, has stated that this recommendation should be implemented at an early date and regarding the necessity for the proposal he has observed as follows :—

" Even in European countries, where museums serve highly literate communities, guide lecturers are employed to explain the exhibits and conduct parties—

14

round, and this service is very much appreciated. In the case of Indian museums a very large percentage of the visitors to which are illiterate, the need for the service of guide lecturers is indeed very pressing and most essential. According to the Markham-Hargreaves Report, 'one of the first requirements of the Indian Museums movement is the sympathetic study of the problem of the illiterate visitor'. Before 1936, guide lecturers were employed only by the geological section of the Indian Museum at Calcutta. As a result of enquiries made in 1945, I understand that the Nagpur Museum has one guide lecturer and the authorities there are proposing to add two or three more; that the Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery employs two part-time lady guide lecturers; and that the Prince of Wales Museum at Bombay is also actively considering the question of the appointment of guide lecturers. The *ad hoc* Committee appointed by Government to suggest improvements to this Museum considered, at my suggestion, the question of guide lecturers for this Museum and unanimously recommended that *two* new posts of Assistant Curators to work as guide lecturers should be created. The implementing of this suggestion will, without any doubt, increase the usefulness of this Museum."

This Department recommends the proposal of the Superintendent, Government Museum. The posts of Assistant Curators may be placed in the scale of pay of Rs. 90—3—120. The posts may be sanctioned for a period of one year in the first instance. Necessary provision may be made in the Budget Estimate for 1948-9 as shown in the summary above.

M. V. SUBRAMANIAN—21-11-47.

72

14

48

Extracts from the recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee on the Part II Schemes for 1948-49.

PART II SCHEME - Appointment of 2 Assistant Curators to work as Guide Lecturers.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE S.F.C.: The Committee suggested that th GUIDE LECTURERS for the Goverment Museum might preferably be Women.

E&P.H.(P2)

~~Govt.~~ Museum,— Govt. Madras — Appointment of Two Assistant Curators to work as guide lecturers — ~~appro~~ Sanctioned — proposals for reorganization of the Museum — orders passed.

p61 y From the S.G.M. No 187-3-46 — Dt 2-2-46.

p139 y From the S.G.M. No. 1265-1-47 — Dt 20-5-47.

8.8 / 11/5

Order 1176 Edn dated 11-5-48

Ms.—

The Govt. have carefully considered the recommendations of the Special Committee appointed by the Govt. in 1945 for improvements to the Govt. Museum, Madras and pass the following orders:—

(i) The Govt. accept the Committee's recommendations that it is necessary to sanction the appointment of two ~~guide lecturers~~ Assistant Curators, to work as guide lecturers and to assist the Curators in the Museum. They accordingly sanction the creation of two temporary posts of Assistant~~s~~ Curators in the scale of Rs 90-3-120 for the Govt. Museum, for a period of one year from the date of appointment to the posts.

Who should preferably be women

R

Vide SFC's Proceedings at (2)

(ii) As regards the recommendation for the establishment of an Art Gallery, the Govt. consider that such it should be run with public support and on a non-official basis and should not be a charge on the Provincial Revenues. The Govt. do not propose to take any action on this recommendation.

(iii) The other recommendations of the Committee will be deferred.

2. The expenditure on the appointment of Assistant Curators (item (i) in para 1 above) will be met from the allotment in the current year's estimates under 36 - a Scientific departments - Museums.

Wh
28.4.48

W
28.4.48
6.5.48

p 204
Estt.

To
The A.G.M.
" A.G. Mns
Fin
Fin. Dept.
2 Sp. Copies.

ppd
Fw
12.5.48

17(a)

E.A.P.H. Deptt.

Routine

Please put up to me all available files connected with improvements to the Museum, since its inception. Before we give effect to the committee's recommendation we have to examine all the old references on the subject to see if some schemes cannot be taken up also, calling if necessary for a fresh meeting of the committee.

B

Submitted the Museum

2 p 17 c/f

was established in 1851.
All old files prior to 1941 and ~~the~~ old indexes are in the M.R.O., Chittoor. M.R.O. may be asked to trace and send the papers. U.o. note below is for appl.

22.3.46

23.3.46

U.o note despatched in original on 23/3/46

---

(81)

C.(1864).

9/4

6/4

9/4

U.O. Note No 1864/C dated 9-4-46.

Sub: Government Museum, Madras: Improvement of -

Ref: From the Curator, Madras no 717 D1/46 dated 4-4-46

DP con/ 9/4

The current file relating ~~to the improvement to the Government Museum, Madras,~~ the above subject is herewith sent to the Curator, Madras, ~~and~~ He is requested to prepare a note on ~~the subject and send it to us before at an early date~~ development and improvement of the Museum ~~from~~ its inception and send it as early as possible.

To Curator, Govt Museum, Madras (with current file)

Despatched 15/4 11-4

Regd 6.4.46

8.4.46

9.4.46

attached

note U.o. Reminder sent to 16.5.46

Reminder

1300 DIS/46 E ~~[illegible]~~

4

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE
17 MAY 1946
MADRAS

U.O. Note No. 1864/-2 dated 16-5-46

Government Museum, Madras, Improvement of.. U.O Note No 1864/-1C2 of 9.4.46

The Curator, M.R.O. may, it ~~is submitted,~~ be requested to state as when the note on the development and improvement of the Museum from its inception asked ~~[illegible]~~ for in the U.O note quoted above may be expected.

15.5.46

Curator, M.R.O

14/5/46

15.5.46

Madras Record Office.

The indexes have been examined

and

35

and a large number of papers relating to the Museum have been collected from 1850 down to the present. These papers have to be studied and notes on the various points have to be prepared. It is quite likely that in the course of the study it may be found that more papers have to be traced and collected. All this will necessarily take some time.

I have been very busy for several months past with a number of intricate searches on various important subjects. At present I am writing a note on riparian rights for the Revenue Department. This subject which covers a period of over a century is so intricate and difficult to understand and the papers relating to it are so many that though I have been engaged upon it for some months, it is not yet finished. It is likely to occupy my time for another month or so. I have not been given any special assistance for dealing with these long searches. I therefore find it very difficult to attend to more than one important search at a time along with my other official duties. I asked last month for a Special Assistant but the Government have not yet passed orders upon my proposals.

C2 (83) 6

File Linked to Fin an 20/5/46

In the midst of these searches I have now been asked by the Government to proceed to Tanjore to inspect the Modi records in the old Tanjore Palace and to submit a report upon them. Almost the whole of next week is likely to be taken up with going to Tanjore and writing the report.

I shall however try to take up the note on the Museum soon and I shall try to submit it to the Government by about the end of next month.

M.S. Baliga
17/5/46

M.R.O.U.O.No.1300-DI/46
17-5-1946.

To M E & P.H. Department
U.O.

18 MAY 1946
26738

E & P.H. (Cur)

The Curator may be reminded again on ~~15~~ 25 6-46, if necessary.

28/5/46

Wa
21.5.46

It can be linked with the + file relating to the proposal of the M.R.O. for a fresh post of search assistant.

+ Orders issued separately

21.5.46

File was linked with Museum Adm report file & returned on 2/7

The Curator's note on the Museum has not been received yet. He may be reminded. A draft D.O. is submitted.

Cwa
4.7.46

SMM
5.7.46

717 D7/46

Ed P.H Dept (C2)

U.O. Note 38426 C2/45-6 Edn., dated 23.3.46 —

Sub:- Govt Museum, Madras - Old papers relating to.

dp
23/3

The M.R.O., Chittoor, may be requested to trace and send all papers connected with improvements to the Govt. Museum, Madras, from its inception. The Museum was established in 1851.

MADRAS RECORD
24 MAR 194
MADRAS

SR
21/3/46

Wa
22.3.46

22.3.46

M.R.O.

pp 79-133 cf

p 3 ante

Madras Record Office.

A note on the Museum has been prepared in response to the Government U.O.Note No.18647-1-C2 dated 9-4-1946. This note may be sent to the Government along with the current file which was sent by the Government for reference.

As

8

1857 - 1862

717 B3/46

~~-2-~~

As pages 17 to 26 of the current file were in a bad condition a copy of the matter on these pages has been taken and is placed in the file for the reference of the Govennment.

The papers referred to in the note on the Museum may also be furnished to the Government.

16.7.46

M.R.O.U.O.No.717/46
16-7-1946.

M.H. Baliga
16/7/46.

To ~~the~~ Education and Public Health Department U.O.

DEPUTY SECRETARY TO GOVT.
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
18 JUL 1946
38889

9

Museum - Government - Recommendations of the ~~Special~~ Committee.

In G.O.No. 665-Edn., dated 27-4-45, the Govt. appointed a Committee with the Dy.Secretary, E.& P.H. (Mr. C.O. Coorey) as Chairman to investigate the present arrangements and accommodation provided in the Museum Buildings for housing the valuable coins and exhibits and to make recommendations for their improvement in order to ensure the proper maintenance, arrangement and safe preservation of these valuables. In February last, the S.G.M. submitted to Govt. the recommendations of the Committee. Before passing orders on the Committee's recommendations it was considered necessary to examine all the old references on the subjects covered by the recommendations to see if more schemes could not be taken up also. The Curator, M.R.O. was accordingly asked to prepare a note on the development and improvement of the museum from its inception. The note furnished by the Curator is at ~~flag (C)~~ pp 79-133 c.f. It will be seen that he has not prepared a general note but has examined the recommendations of the Museum Committee, one by one, and furnished such information as is available among the records on the subject matter of each of them.

p 45 c of n.i (B)

pp 62-65 cf

Vide D.S.'s slip on p 1 ante

p 3 ante

2. The recommendations of the Committee have been noted on in the sectional notes placed below. Necessary extracts from the Curator's note have been incorporated in the sectional notes. After orders are passed on the sectional notes further action will be taken. (Recommns Nos. 7 and 9 ~~relating to the revival of~~ of the Committee have been dealt with separately).

x Re: revival of post of Curator, Numis... [illegible] reads proof

Cea
28.8.46

D.S.
Secy might like to see the very interesting note of Dr. Baliga — at pp 79 to 133 c/f.
S.R.K.
6.9.46

I would like to see it after the file returns from its rounds.
B 7.9.46

10

5263p Exp.c.

Copies of pp 3-5, 6-10 and 12-14 of the sectional notes may be sent to the S.G.M. After issue, the file may be sent to P.W.D, Dev and Finance for remarks.

Cva
10.9.46

SRK
10.9.46

PWD / Dev / Fin. (a.i.)

30 SEP 1946

× pp 1-2, 15 & 16-17 of sectional notes

⊗ pp 21-22 of sectional notes

× pp 1-2, 15, 16-17 + 19-20 of Sec. notes

⊗ Issued as U.O. No. 18647-7Ca Edn. 11-9-46.

PWD

The remarks of this dept have been entered at p2, p15 and p17 of the sectional notes kept below.

2. The file may be passed on to Devt.

E. & P. H. U.O. No. 18647-8Ca 13-9-46.

PM
16/9/46

19.9.46

S / DW
10.9.46
RW

C
5381

70606

1879

PWD U.O 5381/46-1
21.9.46

Dev Dept D III

To U.S.

This Dept. is concerned with pp 21-22 of the Sectional notes put up below.

The proposal referred to by E & P.H. at 'M' on p 22 of the Sectional notes is ~~presumably with the proposal~~ to ~~open an Art Gallery at~~ construct Addl. buildings for an Art Gallery at the Govt. Museum Madras. It has been deferred till next year. ~~Rajahmundry which is still pending~~. This Dept. may agree with E & P.H that the D.I & C. will have to be consulted on the recommendation ~~[illegible]~~ no. (10) at p21 of the Sectional notes below.

With these remarks, the case may be ~~returned~~ passed on to Finance Dept.

23 SEP 1946

× vide deferred 3035 D III 21.7.46

Z
Recd

Kw
26/9/46

ARN
27.9.46

Finance.

Dev U.O 70606 D III/46
27-9-46

Recd Exp
30/9/46

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(85)

Finance (Expr)

Please see notes from page 9 above.

The remarks of this Dept. have been added to pages 2, 5, 15 (a), 17 and 20 of the sectional notes below.

After orders are passed, the file may be returned to E & P.H.

2.10.46

3.10.46

7.10.46

KRN
9.10.46

As / ~~Asst Secy / Secy~~

11.10.46

Dvd
11.X.46

E.P.H

Thro' E III
(P. 20 of Sec notes)
6.10.46
Fin. U.O. 52634 Exp.C-1
11.10.46

6062
12 OCT 1946

E & P.H. Deptt.

[A U.O. reference was sent to the S.G.M regarding recommendations Nos. 2, 3 & 5 of the Committee. His reply has been received ~~and~~ vide pp 135-136 of

Further notes have been added to pages 2 (a), 5 (a), 10 (a), 14, 15 (a), 17 (a), 20 (a) & 23 of the sectional notes below. Two draft memos are also submitted for approval.

× Placed below sectional notes

Cva
4.11.46

8.11.46

J.S. wanted to pass orders in this case after visiting the Museum.
Read back on 4/3 from J.S as HM (Edn) required the E.P. Dr. Aiyappan's confirmation

(Noxe 32)

Ed & H Dept
C2

File for Interview

Routine

The linked file below relating to the reorganisation of the Museum deals with the following matters:—

pp 1-2(a) of the Sec. notes. ×

(1) Construction of an addl block of buildings (Block B) to house the prehistoric and anthropological collections, coins and other valuables — Estimated cost Rs 4,00,000/-.

pp 3-5(a) of Sec notes

(2) Reservation of the west wing of the first floor of the front buildings for bronzes. ~~Improvement of lighting in certain parts in which it is now unsatisfactory~~ Remodelling some of the cases to permit all the sides of the images being viewed by visitors — Goes with item (1) above.

pp 6-10(a) of Sec notes

(3) Rearrangement of the Amaravati gallery after taking out the sculptures in the walls — Likely to involve large expenditure — Estimate not given.

pp 12-14 of Sec notes

(4) The zoological galleries should be made more attractive by habitat groups — Employment of a Artist modeller on the scale of pay of Rs 75-10/2-125

pp 15-15(a) of Sec notes ×

(5) Electrification of the buildings — Estimate not furnished

pp 16-17(a) of Sec notes ×

(6) Additional provision for reserve and duplicate collections — Construction of two low-terraced godowns. — Estimates not given

pp 18-20(a) Sec notes

✓ (7) Appointment of two Assistant Curators to work as Guide lecturers and to assist the Curators — Scale suggested by him is 75-5/2-100 — Cost works out to Rs 2592 p.a.

pp 21-23 of Sec notes ✓

(8) Art Gallery for the Museum — Involves the following proposals:—

(i) Utilisation of the Victoria Technical Instt building on the Pantheon Road (next to the Museum). — This is under private management and under the control of the D.I.E.;

(2) Acquisition of pictures and exhibits — Initial expenditure Rs 2,00,000/-. Recurring expenditure Rs 20,000/- per annum.,

(3) Appointment of an Officer of Gazetted rank for the purpose borne on the cadre of the Govt Museum — Scale of pay Rs 250–300/- — with an Asst on Rs 100-10/2-200 and clerks and menials

It is proposed to pass orders on the above proposals after inspecting the Museum.

|| I intend inspecting the Museum as early as possible in the coming [illegible] M. 4. 47

In the matter of recruitment of a candidate by the Public Services Commission ~~at [illegible]~~ for the post of S. G. M., the commission found Dr Aiyappan unsuitable to hold the appointment permanently in the normal conditions of peace which will presumably afford scope for reorganisation and expansion. The commission also doubted whether the Govt will get a better candidate on the scale of pay sanctioned for the post. In this connection it was suggested by J.S (DS at that time) that the question of raising the pay and status of the head of the Museum, and creating the post of say a Director on a scale of pay of say 600-50/2-900-75/2-1200 which may attract highly qualified men, can be considered separately, along with the other proposals for the reorganisation of the Museum. This proposal is therefore to be considered along with the other proposals mentioned above

p 17 cf (top file)

p 13 n f (top file)

Extract taken

|| This proposal, which does not require any inspection, may be examined separately, by opening a separate file M. 4. 47

This note may be sent to H M (Edn) for ~~N~~ use at the time of interview with the S. G. M. ~~who has been~~ ~~asked to~~ in the course of this week.

10/4/47

W 10-4-47

J/S

S

11/4/47

H. M. (Edn.)

The interview may be premature. My [illegible] is that there is no need to give him an interview, as it is obvious he will speak of his own claims.

M. 4. 47

(Box 64C)

18647 C2/46

(27)

PP. 13–14 ante

The Supdt. of the Govt. Museum met me the other day. He was more or less repeating the same proposals set out above. In view of our present financial condition I said it (the Govt) won't be able to spend a large amount of money now. I have asked him to send his report with regard to the urgent suggestions which he would like to be carried out immediately. He may be asked to submit those suggestions.

A

SECRETARIAT, EDN. AND P.H. DEPT.
2 MAY 1947
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

TSA
2.5.47

With reference to 'A' above, a draft on to the S.G.M. is submitted.

6/5/47

W
6.5.47

(Box 64C)

p 137 c f

[Issued as Memo No. 18647 C2/46 - 9 Edn D, 6.5.47]

18647/45

C.No. 4308 b. from the S.G.M., letter M 1265-1/47 d. 20.5.47.

pp 139-142 cf

The original proposals for the reorganisation of the Museum are as detailed on pp 13-14 ante, and they are dealt with in the Sectional notes below. With ref to the minutes of H.M. (Edn) on p 15 ante, the S.G.M. has put forward three suggestions that should be carried out immediately in his letter on pp 139-142 cf. Of these three suggestions, two relate to recommendations 10 and 11 dealt with on pp 18 and 21 of the Sectional notes. The third suggestion is dealt with separately (A Memo is under issue to the S.G.M.)

Separate file

2. J.S. intends inspecting the Museum in connection with the proposals of the S.G.M. for its reorganisation. For orders whether the examination of the proposals of the S.G.M. may be taken up after J.S. inspects the Museum.

11/6/47
13.6.47

S.O.
13.6.47

J.S.

S
M.K.W.

M. p14 ante

I see no objection. I [illegible] would welcome it, thanks

I inspected the Museum on 11.8.47 along with Mr T.N. Ramachandran and Mr Srinivasan of the archaeological Dept. I regret I was unable to spare the time to go earlier, as I was unable to get a suitable time and opportunity for a joint inspection. I give below my suggestions on the points set out as items 1 to 8 on pages 13-14 ante, and also the items ~~on pages [illegible]~~ [illegible] on pages 139-142 cf which the S.G.M. considers to be urgent.

Item I was considered absolutely necessary, particularly as the space has to be found for the megalithic monuments from various places that are to be sent to the museum. A strong room was also considered a crying necessity. It was not considered possible to cheapen ~~[illegible]~~ the cost of construction appreciably.

Item 2 There is no question about the desirability of this item, but it cannot be carried out effectively unless the additional buildings proposed as item I become available, as more space is required for adequate display. Already something has been done in this direction to display some of the best bronzes so as to permit of perambulation. Suitable lighting is also necessary.

Item 3 was considered the most crying need. Many of the items have been assembled and grouped badly, without careful thought being bestowed on the matter at the beginning. Some inscriptions have been put up upside down! Some of the sculptures are already being affected by the chunam cement in which they have been encased. One can see the difference already between the sculptures that are freely displayed and those that have been embedded in the wall. Some of the walls that have been put up are so strong that it might easily become a problem to ~~disentangle~~ & remove the sculptures without damaging them. I have suggested to the Supdt. that he and Mr T. N. Ramachandran and Mr Srinivasan may first decide exactly how and where the rearrangement of the exhibits is to be done, so that it can be done to a plan and with the least amount of demolition and displacement. The room to the north of the Amaravati room that has been now got ready for Nagarjunakonda antiquities may be used for the overflow from the Amaravati hall after the rearrangement, in view of the fact that it is separately proposed to keep Nagarjunakonda as a site museum.

Item 4. The appointment of an artist modeller was considered highly desirable. If we could

get a good modeller, we could make the arrangement remunerative to some extent by getting him to make plaster casts for sale to the public of some items of sculpture. A curator has been deputed for studying the question of zoological habitat groups, and he can train ~~mechanics~~ artisans when he comes back. It is proposed to make only miniature groups.

P 14, Sectional notes

Item 5. This is a simple question of finance and the availability of materials. There is no question about the need for it.

Item 6. No estimates have yet been sent for administrative sanction. Godowns are badly needed for duplicate collections, which otherwise occupy a lot of space needed for other ~~more~~ exhibits. Duplicates are necessary to enable us, among other things, to obtain ~~on~~ on an exchange basis, exhibits from other museums of which we may lack.

Item 7 guide lecturers. Strictly speaking, it is necessary to have lecturers for each separate department, as two lecturers cannot cover the whole area. The system will not be of much use to the average visitors who do not come in large groups, but it will certainly be a great help for sponsored visits by college and school students. In the Calcutta museum, the lecturers get extra remuneration for attending on ~~[illegible]~~ prefixed such academic parties and lecturing to them. If such an arrangement is set on foot in Madras, it will be a great advantage to all educational institutions, and if a small fee is charged it might even reduce the cost to some extent. If at any time a ~~[illegible]~~ degree course in Archaeology ~~[illegible]~~ and ancient culture is instituted in the University of the Province, one can expect the facilities provided under this item to be used regularly. For a start, two guide lecturers of the rank of Assistant curators who can aspire for promotion in due course as curators may be appointed.

8) Art gallery: After discussion ~~[illegible]~~ it was felt that though this was a highly desirable item, it was better to try and run it on public support, and on a non-official basis, and not to make it a charge on Govt. revenues unless all other sources were first explored.

~~[illegible]~~

9) In addition to the above proposals, the question of P.A. to the S.G.M. was also informally considered. The ~~first [illegible]~~ present P.A. Mr Rahim Sahib Raleviar, a supdt. from the Sectt has been suspended for alleged misappropriation; and this may be a suitable time to consider the question of ~~[illegible]~~ appointing a deputy supdt., a post which may carry a small duty allowance and be ~~[illegible]~~ a selection post in the cadre of curators. He will be able to attend to the Museum during the temporary absence of the S.G.M., ~~[illegible]~~ either on leave or on tour. ~~and he will be more [illegible] the discipline and [illegible]~~ A supdt. with one leg in the Sectt and one in the Museum ~~[illegible]~~ becomes useless for both institutions, as the experience he may gain in ~~one~~ may be no use whatever for the other. Mere familiarity with office procedure is no criterion for an apptt. of this special nature. A certain background of culture is necessary, and the Sectt, as is well known, frowns on any such extra-mural accomplishments.

(10) Item 2 on P140. Loud speaker arrangements may be tried as an experimental measure for six months.

To sum up, the schemes can be arranged in the following priorities:

I Item 4, Item 7, Item 10. These are the cheapest of the proposals, and can therefore be implemented straight away.

II Item 9. This is the next ~~[illegible]~~ though it might need more detailed examination.

III Item 5 ~~and [illegible]~~. A major question of finance

IV Item 3, ~~[illegible]~~. Needs further investigation.

V Item 1 and Item 2. The largest financial item, as it involves large scale building schemes.

The priorities, as the S.G.M. has observed on P142 do not represent the order of urgency as such, ~~[illegible]~~ but merely the order in which they can be most easily taken up for financial sanction and execution.

26. 8. 47.

~~D. P.H. (60)~~.-

(B)

G.O. 665 Edn
27.4.45

Notes from page 9 ante may be perused. This file deals wi

the recommendations made by a committee appointed by Govt. in 194

to investigate the arrangements and accommodation provided in th

Museum buildings for housing the valuable coins and exhibits and

make suggestions for their improvements in order to ensure the

maintenance, arrangement and safe preservation of these valuable

The recommendations of the Committee are on pages 61-65 c.f.

have been noted on in the sectional notes placed below. The S.G.M

interviewed H.M.(Edn.) on 1-5-1947 in connection with these re

mendations. Please see the minutes of H.M.(Edn.) on p. 15 ante

view of H.M's minute, the S.G.M. was asked to send a report rega

the urgent suggestions that should be carried out immediately in

Museum. The S.G.M's reply is at pages 139-142 c.f. J.S. (Mr. P

Viswanatha Iyer) has offered his suggestions on the recommendati

of the Committee after inspecting the museum on 11-8-1947. Plea

see pp. 17-21 ante.

p.137 c.f.

2. In view of the minute of H.M.(Edn.) at p.15 ante, it i

presumed that only those proposals which the S.G.M. considers es

tial and urgent need be proceeded with at present. The urgent propos

Two of these 3 items have been put in by the learned J.S. in the first group under priorities; the other item suggested by him (P.A. to S.G.M.) need not [illegible] will be taken up [illegible]

E III

re:--

(1) Appt. of guide lecturers to help illiterate visitors;
(2) Provision of loud speaker arrangements; and
(3) Estt. of an Art gallery for Madras.

p 139 cf

ITEM (1) ABOVE - GUIDE LECTURERS. Please see pages 18-20 f the sectional notes below. The committee of ~~appointed in~~ 1945 ecommended the appt. of two Asst. Curators to work as guide ecturers and to assist the Curators. The scale of pay suggested or the Asst. Curators is Rs. 75-10/2-125. This Dept. supported he proposal and suggested that the posts ~~may~~ might be sanctioned temporarily for ~~the~~ a period of two years. The Fin. Dept. however suggested that the proposal might be considered as a Part II Scheme for 1948-49. The proposal may accordingly be treated as Part II for 1948-49. The scale of pay may be Rs. 75-5-125.

p 63 cf + p 18 of sec. notes

pp 19-20 of sec notes

ITEM (2) ABOVE - LOUD SPEAKER ARRANGEMENTS.- This is not one the recommendations made by the committee of 1945. The S.G.M. as submitted separate proposals on this subject and these are alt with in the linked file. The S.G.M. has been asked to rnish an estimate of the expenditure involved in his proposals and s reply is awaited.

p 7 cf in linked file

ITEM (3) ABOVE - ART GALLERY.- Attention is invited to .21-22 of the sectional notes placed below. The committee of 45 considered that the Victoria Technical Institute Building the Pantheon Road, Egmore should be used as an Art Gallery and made rtain suggestions in this regard. J.S. is of opinion that it better to run the Art Gallery on public support and on a non-ficial basis and not to make it a charge on Govt. revenues less all other sources were first explored. For orders whether s view may be accepted and the S.G.M. informed accordingly.

pp 63-65 cf

Item 8, p 20 ante

3. The other proposals of the committee and also the suggestion of Joint Secretary in 9 on p 20 ante may be deferred the present. The file may be sent to Fin. for remarks with erence to item (1)-Asst. Curators. before circulation.

12.9.47

16.9.47

Fin: E III

E & P H U O No.
18647 C2/46-10 Edn
24.9.47

~~please see notes in x on p 21 above~~

The case deals with the proposals r the improvement of the Govt. Museum ensure the proper maintenance, rrangement ~~and~~ safe preservation valuable coins and exhibits. e file has now been remitted to this

57279 E III

---

p 22 above

department with reference to the proposal to appoint two Curators in the Museum to work as Guide Lecturers and to a the Curators - please see the note of E.& P.H. on pp.21-22 above

E.& P.H. originally proposed the scale 75-10/2-125 for the posts of Asst.Curators. For the reasons noted on p.20 of the Sectional notes, this department suggested the scale 75-5/2-100 which corresponded to the scale of Photographers, Madras City Police prior to the issue of G.O.78,Fin., dated 6-2-47. The scale of pay of Photographers, Madras City Police has ~~ax~~ since been revised to 90-3-120 in the above G.O. This department may advise that the same scale may be adopted for the posts of Asst.Curators - compare also the revised scale of Rs 120-240 for the posts of Curators in Madras Museum.

p 20 of Sectional notes below

p 13 of G.O. 78 Fin 6.2.47

2. E.& P.H. proposed to treat the employment of Asst. Curators as Part II Scheme for 1948-9. This department previously considered that the proposal could not be considered as so urgent to be introduced in 1946-7 and suggested that as proposal would not also be said to satisfy the criterion of essentiality to admit as Part II Scheme for 1947-8, it ~~it~~ may be deferred for consideration as a Part II Scheme for 1948-9. Certain criteria have been laid down for admission of proposals as Part II Schemes - vide extract at (x). ~~[illegible]~~ If E.& P.H. think that the present proposal can be said to be essential for the proper running of the department this department may agree to the proposal being considered as a Part II Scheme for 1948-9; the extra cost involved works out to Rs 3100 a year. ~~[illegible]~~

p 20 of Sectional notes below

No remarks are called for on the other proposals of E.& P.H. on p.22 above.

p 22 above

Rs:
29.9.47 29.9.47

1/10/47

Fin. no
57279 E III
1-10-47

78429

DS
EPH

EPH

E & PH (C2)

Please see ~~the~~ H M (Edn)'s minutes on p 15 ~~above~~. and the notes on p 21-23 above. The proposal is to appoint two Asst. Curators in the Museum to work as Guide Lecturers and to assist the Curators. The S. G. M considers that

[P.T.O

p 139-162 cf

proposal is essential ^and this may be accepted^. The scale of pay of Rs 90-3[illegible] suggested by Finance for these posts may be accepted.

The case may ^now^ be circulated to H.M. (Edn) for orders ~~on~~

Whether the proposal to employ two Asst. curators may be considered as a Part II scheme for 1948-49 and the remaining proposals in the file may be deferred for the present.

13.X.47

S

11/10/47

H.M. (Edn.)

RC
11.X.47
11.10.47

TSA
16.10.47

SECRETARY, EDN. AND P. H. DEPT.
16 OCT 1947
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

15/X

A draft Part II note is submitted for approval. ^It^ may be sent to Finance for acceptance before circulating.

21.11.47 Fin

Badly delayed.
21.11.47

Re
18.11.47
21.11.47

Finance (Spl) E&PH no. 18647-11 Edn

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
25/11/47
26 NOV 1947
71190 (Spl)
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

(See Fin notes on pp 22-23 above)

The draft Part II scheme note ~~for~~ may be accepted as slightly amended in pencil. E&P.H. deptt will no doubt circulate the case to HM (Fin) also ~~before the issue of the draft Part II scheme note.~~

1/12

2.12.47

21.12.47

E&PH

Thro' B.E III
2.12.47

Fin. no
71190 (Spl)-1
3.12.47

E&P.H (C2).

The slight amendments to the Part II note suggested ~~The draft Part II scheme note as amended~~ by Finance may be approved. The case may now be circulated to HM (Edn) and HM (Fin).

4.12.47

S

4/12/47

H.M. (Edn)

95060

Re
3.12.47

3.12.47

TSA
5.12.47

H.M. Fin

SECRETARY, EDN. AND P. H. DEPT.
6 DEC 1947
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

May be considered as Part 2.

My own recommendation is this can wait

6.12

C2 Fin Spl

(92)

The ~~note~~ Part II note may issue. The case may be circulated to Fin (Edn) with reference to the minutes of HM (Fin) after issue. After return from circulation the file may be sent to Fin u.o for perusal of the minutes of HM (Fin)

6.12.47

S

Fin (Edn) 6/12/47

H.M. (Edn) - [illegible]

TSA
8.12.47

~~Do1~~

The case may now be sent to Finance u.o for perusal of the minutes of HM (Fin).

8.12.47 Fin

Re
8.12.47

8.12.47.

SECRETARY, EDN. AND P. H. DEPT.
74674
8 DEC
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

E&PH U.O. No.
18647 C2/46-12 Edn
9.12.47

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
9 DEC 1947
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Finance (Spl.)

(Previous Finance note on p.24 above)

The minute of H.M. (Fin) on p.24 above may be perused and the case returned to E.&P.H.

E.P.H

10/12/47

10.12.47

E.P.H

~~Await clean~~ Send clean copies to Fin if received and await the decision on the Part II scheme note.

11.12

Fin. no
74674 (Spl)-1
10.12.47

~~clean copies of the Part II scheme note have been sent to Finance. This case may be ever~~

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
11 DEC 1947
97[illegible]
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

A draft order is submitted for approval —

Finance may see it.

28.4.48.

(Z)

Put up a copy of the S.F.C.'s recommendations and the cabinet note [illegible] relating to this item.

28.4.48

not available

Please see (Z) - A copy of the Fin. Dept's Note from the

C2/26

Cabinet (on the budget proposals) is sent up at (E)

1-5-48

6-5-48

Finance (E III). EPH 40 18647 C2/46-14 Edn.

6.5.48

(Previous note of Finance on p 25)

The draft order below may be accepted. Necessary provision has been included in the B.E. 1948-9. vide item 41 on p 145 of Budget memo for 1948-9

8/5/48

8/5

E-PH

DS

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
35426
7 MAY 1948
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Fin no 35426 E III-1

10-5-48

10-5-48

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
10 MAY 1948
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

34552

93

Sectional Notes

Sectional Note

E & P.H. Dept. (C.2.)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

p 63 cf

1. The committee is of opinion that a new block of buildings is quite necessary for housing the prehistoric and anthropological collections and coins and other valuables.

Curator's Remarks.

para 25, p 91 cf

It was only in 1939 that the block A was finally constructed. From the plan appended to the Handy Guide and from the pictures in the Administration Report of the Museum for 1939-40 it would seem ~~tha~~ that the plan suggested by the Consulting Architect in 1933 was followed in building this block A. Block B has not yet been constructed . The Museum Committee of 1945 has emphasised the need for the construction of a new block and it has suggested that this Block B might now be built. The Superintendent of the Museum however refers to the plan approved in 1929. It is not known whether he has deliberately done so or whether he has done so without knowing that a new plan has been suggested, and apparently accepted, in 1933. ~~Sine~~ Since however block A has been built according to the plan of 1933 it may be desirable, for the sake of harmony, to build Block B also according to the same plan.

Office note

pp 18-19 cf in (BB) G.O. 943 P.W. 2.4.46

In October 1945 the S.G.M. submitted proposals for the construction of an addl block (Block B) in the museum buildings at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,00,000. They were considered as a Part II scheme for 1946-7 and approved by the Govt. A provision of Rs. 20000 was included for the work in the Budget for expenditure in the current year. In the Revised Budget for 1946-7 prepared for presentation to the Legislature H.M (Edn) and H.F.M. decided that the provision made for this work should be deleted. The Chief Engr and the S.G.M. have been informe

A

accordingly.

The Museum Committee emphasises the need for the Construction of this block for housing the prehistoric and anthropological collections and other valuables. The question of making provision for the ~~e~~ building of this block may perhaps be ~~included~~ considered in connection with the next year's budget. For orders

~~P.W.D and Finance may see for remarks~~.

Cva
24.8.46

Provision of add! buildings are essential.

SRK
6946

P.W.D
Fin

P.W.D

This dept may agree to the scheme being considered in connection with the budget proposals of next year. & the scheme brought forward again as a Part II scheme for 1947-48

PKM
16/9/46

SR
19946

20.9.46
Finance (Exp C)

The estimated cost of the additional buildings (Block B.) ~~is~~ is Rs 4 lakhs.

~~As~~ This scheme has been deleted from the Revised Budget for the current year by the Cabinet as it was not considered urgent. ~~it seems this is not a matter of great urgency. Further~~ In view of the present state of the finances of the province, ~~the present policy of~~ the Govt. are ~~is~~ restricting expenditure on building schemes, as far as possible, to the minimum. This Dept. have therefore been advising consistently the postponement

'A' on p1 abo

of all non essential building schemes (proposed) for consideration as Part II schemes for 1948-9. It may be mentioned in this connection that even bldg. schemes which were included in this Govt's post-war development plan have been deferred for the present. [Eg. construction of permanent buildings for Veterinary dispensaries.]. The ~~prices~~ cost of building materials and Labour is very high at present and it may take some years before it appreciably falls.

In view of the above and in view of the large cost involved in the proposal, Finance may advise that the scheme may be deferred ~~for the present~~ till building costs return~~s~~ to normal.

DWD KRV
9.10.46

If however, E.P.H. wish to press ~~for~~ their proposal, Finance may suggest that ~~it may~~ the scheme be taken up for consideration ~~in connection with the~~ as a Part II scheme~~s~~ for 1948-9. (Under the present instructions, Part II schemes for 1947-8 should be restricted to those which are essential and ~~this~~ this Dept. has been advising (postponement of) many building schemes to 1948-9.).

B

DWD KRV
9.10.46

SH A
2.10.46

2.10.46

KRV
9.10.46

B

May be deferred till building costs return to normal.

11.10.46

DWD
11.x.46

E&P.H. Dept

The scheme may be deferred for consideration in connection with the Budget for 1948-9 as suggested by Finance. For orders.

B above

Cva
29.10.46
2.11.

I agree
8.11.46

RECOMMENDATION

p 63 cf

2. The Committee recommends that the West wing of the first floor of the Front Buildings may be reserved for bronzes. after lighting is improved in certain parts in which it is now unsatisfactory. and remodelling some of the cases so as to permit all the sides of the images being viewed by visitors.

CURATOR'S REMARKS.

BRONZES

pp 93-95 cf

~~20.~~ The bronze collection in the Madras Museum has been considered to be "undoubtedly the finest in existence" and it has been stated that, with the exception of a few fine specimens in the Colombo Museum and the Musee Gruiment in Paris, there is no public collection in which they are adequately represented.

The Committee has now suggested that more space should be allotted for them on the first floor of the Front Building. This will be possible if Block B is built and the anthropological collections which occupy part of that floor are removed, as suggested by the Committee, into that block. The Committee has also recommended that lighting should be improved in the gallery. In regard to this it has already been pointed out in the section on buildings that the defect in lighting in the galleries of the Front Building was noticed as early as 1895. Nothing however seems to have been done to rectify this defect till now. The Committee has not explained how the lighting is to be improved. There is evidence to show that when the annexe to the Marine Gallery in the old building was being built in 1913 it was proposed to provide sky lights though subsequently the idea was given up as it was found that they would not afford enough light while they would take up valuable space in the floor above. Since, however, in the present case there is no floor above there cannot perhaps be any objection to providing sky lights.

The Committee has likewise suggested that the cases should be remodelled so as to permit all the sides of the images to be seen. (There is evidence to show) that) most of the cases are at present arranged against the walls and that they are provided with glass panes only on three sides. It is therefore not possible for visitors to see the back of the images. The committee's suggestion would make it necessary to provide glass panes on the fourth sides also, but this will be possible only if a passage is left between the wall and the cases. Such an arrangement will naturally require more space but this may be available if the anthropological collections are removed into the block B which is proposed to be built.

Office note

~~As~~ stated in the Curator's remarks on p 3 ante it seems it will be possible to reserve the west wing of the first floor of the Front Buildings for bronze images only when ~~the~~ addl. block is constructed.

2/ Regarding the Committee's recommendation that lighting should be improved in this gallery the Curator suggests that the question of providing skylights may be considered. The S.G.M. may be asked to consider the suggestion in consultation with the P.W.D. authorities. SMY

3/ As regards remodelling of some ~~of~~ the cases so as to permit all the sides of the images to be seen the S.G.M. has not furnished information ~~as~~ about the number of such cases and the extra expre involved in the remodelling. B

Recently arrangements were made to exhibit one of the best 'Natarajas' in the centre of a room so that all the sides could be seen by visitors. A teakwood barricade is provided round the image. If such ~~an~~ arrangement in the case of all the images will require more space

pp 5+25 of (Q)
G.O. 865 Edn
24.4.46

YS. SMY

the question may have to be deferred till the addl block is built. The S.G.M. may be consulted no. on this point and regarding B above.

CVA
24-8.46

SRK
6.9.46

Finance Expr. C

No remarks are called for pending receipt of detailed proposals. Evidently the whole question is connected with the Construction of the proposed Block B: and can well be taken up along with the Construction of the new Block.

KRN
9.10.46

11.10.46

DWD
11.X.46

Remarks of the S.G.M.

p 185 of P

The entire 1st floor of the Front Building can be used for the exhibition of the bronzes only after the additional block is constructed. This is what the Committee had in view in making the recommendation.

Lighting cannot be sufficiently improved by the provision of sky-lights. Moreover, if this is done, the ornamental false ceiling will have to be removed in several places.

Q

Remodelling of a large number of the cases and leaving passages behind them are impossible in the present congested condition. The Committee's recommendation about the provision of glasses at the back applies particularly to 2 long cases put against the outer wall in the Saivite and the Vaishnavite Galleries. The approximate cost of replacing the back with glass will, in their case, amount to Rs.800/-. Since the Committee sent their report, the case for the Nataraja from Tiruvelangadu has been removed from its old place on the verandah to the Vishnu Idols room, as suggested by the Deputy Secretary, and it has been exhibited temporarily in a doubled case with glass on all sides. All round the

5(a)

98

case, there is a barricade put in, the object being to exhibit this bronze, without any glass covering on an ornamental pedestal. This pedestal is being designed by the Principal, School of Arts and Crafts. The presence of the Nataraja of Tiruvelangadu bronze in the Centre of this room makes it impossible to accept the Committee's recommendation about pushing the long case in this room away from the outer wall to the middle of the room. The badly lighted cases can, however, be pushed in about 9 in. from their present position and as there is already a clearance of about 1 foot now, between the back of the cases and the outer wall, a passage of 1'9" wide will enable the back of the images being examined.

Particularly with ~~the daylight lighting~~ the new type of diffused lighting.
Q

The best suggestion seems to me to provide electric light in these rooms, as early as possible. The Electrical Engineer has already got plans ready for the electrification of the whole Museum buildings, but it may be executed in parts beginning immediately with the portions of the buildings as suggested by the Committee. The worst trouble now is due to reflections in badly-lighted cases, but suitable artificial lighting will remove the trouble to a very great extent. Provision of glasses on the fourth side of the most important among other bronzes will have to wait till the new Block is constructed.

R

E.P.H. Dejto

In view of P, Q & R in the S.G.M's note above the question of reserving the West wing of the first floor of the Front Buildings for bronzes and remodelling the bronze cases may be deferred till the addl block is constructed. For orders.

The suggestion regarding provision of electric light is dealt with on p 15(a) below.

B/ 8/1/w

B/ 8/1/w

31.12.46

6 S.of.H. Deptt

Recommendation.

3. The Committee recommends that the Amaravati gallery be rearranged after taking out ~~of~~ the sculptures set in the walls. The details of the arrangement will be settled later by a Sub-Committee consisting of Mr. T.N. Ramachandran, Mr. V. Narasimhan and Dr. A. Aiyappan.

p 62 cf

CURATOR'S REMARKS.

pp 110-113 cf

Amaravati Sculptures:- It is perhaps strange that, in spite of the admitted importance of these marbles, and the serious controversy which arose in connection with their proper care and display, no attempt should have been made for a long time to prepare a descriptive catalogue of them. Dr. Vogel had pointed out this defect. A short list had indeed been prepared in 1853 by Dr. Taylor describing the marbles which were then in the Museum, but most of these marbles had been transferred to England. For the large number of pieces which had since been added to the museum there was no list until 1914 when, at the suggestion of the Superintendent of the Museum, the Government ordered the employment of an expert to prepare a catalogue of these exhibits. There is however nothing to show whether a complete descriptive list was actually prepared either in 1914 or afterwards.

(P)
G.O. 442 Edn
21.4.1914

In the light of what has been stated above it will be interesting to see whether any of the proposals made by the Committee of 1945, if carried out, are likely to give rise to criticism in future. The first recommendation of the Committee is that "all the sculptures in the walls should be removed from their present setting (because of the presence of salts in most of them) and re-assembled after chemical treatment, care being taken to arrange the sculptures according to periods". The Committee has not indicated the extent of the damage already suffered by the sculptures. There is evidence to show that these sculptures which are in limestone marble developed "a brown colouration and white incrustation which mar their beauty and gradually destroy them". The brown colouration was due to the presence of iron and the problem of removing it was considered to be difficult. The white incrustation was due to calcium chloride and carbonates. It was believed that as the sculptures had been buried underground for a long time there were salts in their pores and that these salts were coming out slowly and forming an incrustation.

p 67 cf

(K)
G.O. 1160 Edn
3.7.31

(D)
G.O. 1727 Edn
30.7.34

(E)
G.O. 852 Edn
2.6.41

It was also considered that the salts in the walls in which the sculptures were firmly fixed were also passing into the sculptures. Experiments are stated to have been made by the Archaeological Chemist of the Museum to find out the best means of treating the sculptures, and some of them are stated to have been "treated with paper pulps to remove the salts from within the pores" It is however not stated whether it is possible to treat the marbles successfully. It has merely suggested that they should be treated chemically.

P

Before, however, the marbles can be treated chemically they have to be removed from their present setting. The Committee has not stated whether such removal from the present setting of cement is possible at all. It will be remembered that Dr. Burgess lamented in 1885 that the marbles had been "needlessly injured by casing IN A CEMENT THAT CAN NEVER BE REMOVED" and that Dr. Vogel stated that they had been "FIXED IN CEMENT AND IT WILL BE NO EASY MATTER TO RE-ARRANGE THEM". As the marble is stated to be very brittle it is quite likely that the sculptures cannot be removed from the cement without damage. Perhaps an attempt may be made to remove some of the unimportant pieces before deciding upon the removal of the rest.

Granting that the sculptures can be successfully removed from the cement and treated chemically it has next to be considered whether they ought to be reassembled as suggested by the Committee or encased in air-tight glass cases as suggested by the Superintendent. The Committee has not stated anything about the glass cases evidently becuase glass cases cannot be used if the sculptures are to be reassembled. As to the method of reassembling the Committee has proposed (1) that the sculptures should be arranged according to periods, (2) that the rail should be realigned east to west to admit light falling on it (3) that the rail and the base of the drum should be rearranged to make them look more like the original and (4) that the pit near the reconstructed rail must be filled up after removing the sculptures. The value of arranging the sculptures according to periods was

p67 of

P.T.O.

recognised even in 1884, but the idea was given up as there was not sufficient space to do so. There cannot be any objection to a chronological arrangement provided there is space enough for that purpose. In regard to the realignment of the rail the Committee has not stated which of the 3 rails is meant. The reference to the admission of light, however, seems to indicate that it is the rail which was erected in the corridor to the annexe in 1894 that is meant. The suggestion to rearrange this rail in such a manner that more light will fall upon it appears no doubt to be a good suggestion. But before the rail is rearranged it has to be considered whether the Archaeological authorities may not hereafter take exception to such rearrangement. It will be remembered that the arrangement of the rail in question made in 1894 was objected to by Dr. Vogel on the ground that from a scientific point of view any reconstruction of the rail is "only permissible if the original position of the various pieces is known" and that in this case the original position of the pieces was not known. Dr. Burgess also denied that there was any definite information about the exact position of the sculptures. It will therefore be desirable to consider the question of arranging the sculptures in the form of rails more carefully before passing orders upon it. The objections to the arrangement of the rail apply also to the arrangement of the drum. The Committee states that the rail and the base of the drum should be rearranged to make them more like the "original". The Archaeological authorities have, as has already been pointed out, held the opinion that nobody can say what the original looked like. This suggestion may also therefore have to be considered more carefully before passing orders on it. The next suggestion, namely, that of filling up the pit in the gallery after removing the sculptures seems to be entirely unexceptionable. It will be remembered that this pit was made a subject of ridicule by Dr. Burgess when he compared it to a bath or a trap. The Committee's recommendation for the removal of some of the sculptures into the old Oriental Manuscripts building and the weeding out of duplicates require no remarks. The suggestion to employ a modeller to prepare a model of the Amaravati stupa is not perhaps entirely unobjectionable in view of what has already been stated about the want of definite information about the original.

P.T.O

Office Note

The Museum Committee appointed a sub-committee to deal with the question of the re-organisation of the Amaravati gallery. The recommendations of the sub-committee which have been approved by the main Committee are at p 67 cf. The main recommendation is that all the sculptures in the walls should be removed from their present setting (because of the presence of salts in most of them) and re-assembled after chemical treatment according to periods. p 67 cf.

2 The Curator's note gives a complete history of the Amaravati sculptures and the issues which were raised in the past over its preservation – vide pp 17–33 of the Curator's note at (C). From his note it will be seen that there are certain serious difficulties in the way of carrying out the proposals made by the Museum Committee. These are C/17-33

(1) the difficulty of removing the sculptures from the present setting of cement — please see the comments of Dr. Burgess and Dr. Vogel in the extract on p 7 ante. As the marble is said to be very brittle it is quite likely that the sculptures cannot be removed without damage. P. p 7 ante

(2) the feasibility of treating the marbles chemically is problematical. p 7 ante

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In view of the difficulties pointed out by the Curator and having regard to the controversies over this matter in the past it seems safer to leave the sculptures as they are. The S.G.M. may see these notes up and offer his ~~further~~ remarks, For orders.

CPA
24.8.46

S.G.M. should see. I think it might be possible to do something — cement can be dissolved by dilute acid (but it might dissolve the marble also!)

SRK
6.9.46

Remarks of the S.G.M.

The Catalogue of the Amaravati marbles has been printed and published. The Curator, Madras Record Office ~~has~~ is obviously not aware of it. pp 135-36 cf

Experiments have been carried on the best ways of treating the marbles and I have got the opinion of experts on this question. Amaravati marbles in the Calcutta Museum have been treated with good results and have been given preservative coatings. The sculptures in the Madras Museum should be similarly treated.

They are to be dealt with in three groups.

A. Sculptures placed on platforms.

They raise no special problems. Chemical cleaning and exhibition under glass is all that has to be done for them.

B. Sculptures set in the walls of the room.

They have to be removed ~~very~~ carefully from the walls and then treated as those in Group A.

C. Sculptures built into (1) the reconstructed railing and (2) Casing of the Stupa.

10(a)

These present very difficult problems and require very careful planning of the work. The slabs can be removed from the cement and then treated, though it would be very troublesome work. But there is no alternative. They should not be left to their fate any longer. I have consulted the Executive Engineer, and he agrees with me that the work of removal of the sculptures can be undertaken, but the chipping will have to be done under very close supervision.

E & P. H. Depts

The S. G. M. states that the Amaravati marbles in the Calcutta Museum have been treated with good results and suggests that the marbles in the Madras Museum should be similarly treated. The work will no doubt entail large addl expenditure. For orders whether it should be taken up now and if so, the S. G. M. may be asked to submit ~~[illegible]~~ an estimate of the cost involved. p 10 ante

Cna
31.10.46

I would like to discuss this personally with the S. G. M. I shall fix up a date on which I shall go down to the Museum. Please put up again on Monday.

B
8/11

---

(10) 11 E & P. H. Depts

RECOMMENDATION

p 63 cf

4. The Committee is of opinion that the time has come for the creation of a picture gallery worthy of the metropolis of the Madras Province, illustrating the various phases of Oriental and Western painting.

While the foregoing is in process, the present coin room and ethnology store-room be made available, after necessary alteration, for the exhibition of a selection of the paintings already in the Museum.

Office note

p 21 supra

This recommendation is dealt with along with recommendation No. 11 relating to the formation of an art gallery.

Cna
24.8.46

Sny
6.9.46.

12 Ex P.H. Dejlo Cr

Recommendation:-

p62 cf

5. The Committee recommends that the Zoological galleries should be made more attractive by habitat groups. This will involve the engagement of a museum artist.

pp 112-116 cf

CURATOR'S REMARKS:--- It has been stated above that the zoological collections were the collections which attracted people most. This was the case even after the live animals were removed from the Museum and the stuffed animals and birds and their skeletons alone were exhibited. Attempts, have however, been made in the past to render even these stuffed specimens more attractive. In 1894, the Superintendent observed that the gallery occupied only by "cases containing melancholy rows of stuffed animals and birds have always been the weak spot in the Museum open to adverse criticism". He therefore tried to render the appearance of the gallery more attractive to the casual visitor by means of framed photographs, coloured pictures and woodcuts of the mammals and birds and by the exhibition of the larger horned animals like the bison and the sambar mounted on shields. He also placed in cases a group of flying foxes on the branches of a tree, the nests and eggs of the pariah kite and the crow in the forks of the trees, on which the birds built, nests of the weaver bird pendent from the leaf of a palm etc. For the sake of sportsmen a case containing the various kinds of snipes was also arranged by him. Attempts like these were made in subsequent years also. In 1915 no less than half a dozen groups were arranged in the gallery, but it was soon found that such arrangements were taking up too much space. "These realistic groups", the Superintendent observed in his annual administration report of that year, "which are among the most popular exhibits in the Museum take up a considerable amount of space and for this reason will unfortunately have to be discontinued. The ~~oxxxxcrowding~~ over-crowding already referred to in this report is nowhere more apparent than in the Natural History Section and with the space at present available little more can be done than to add sparingly to the general collections". Although the formation of realistic groups was thus discontinued their importance was not lost sight of. In 1918 when proposals were made for constructing an extension to the zoological gallery one of the reasons advanced for the extension was that it would provide more space for additional exhibits to illustrate the natural surroundings and habits of common South Indian animals. Again as recently as 1939, the Superintendent, Dr. Gravely, reported that "if staff and resources permitted much more could be done towards showing specimens in their natural surroundings thus making them both more instructive and more attractive. It is stated that in this respect the Bombay Museum has stolen a march over the Madras Museum.

C/38 The Committee has now recommended that there ought to be more habitat groups but it has not stated whether there will be adequate space in the galleries for arranging such groups. Since the formation of the groups was previously discontinued soley for want of space it is clear that unless there is plenty of space now it will be difficult to give effect to the Committee's recommendation. D

Office Note

~~As at~~ With reference to portion D in the Curator's remarks above the S.G.M. may be requested us. to state whether there is adequate space in the zoological galleries in the existing buildings for the formation of more habitat groups. If there is not enough space available at present the ~~question~~ formation of more 'realistic' groups may have to be postponed till the addl block is constructed. A

2/ The Committee has recommended the employment of an Artist-modeller in the Museum in connection with the formation of habitat groups. Attention is also invited to the S.G.M's letter at p ~~74~~ 75 c.f. on this subject ~~point~~ wherein he says that the services of the Artist-modeller will also be useful in making plaster casts for sale to the public. If the proposal for more habitat groups is deferred for the present as suggested above it seems the question of p 12 ante p 75 cf B

B the appointment of an Artist-modeller may also be deferred for the present.

The S.G.M. may see us. for remarks on the above suggestions.

Ca
24.8.46

SGM
6.9.46

p 13 b cf

Remarks of the S.G.M.

The habitat groups I have xxxx in view and on which the Committee made their recommendation are not the very large ones which will no doubt require a good deal of additional space, but miniature groups, for which accommodation can be found in the present galleries. The modeller proposed to be appointed will be engaged on these miniature habitat groups in making plaster models of fishes, snakes etc. and also in making realistic copies in plaster of Paris of selected bronze images for sale to the public. (The last will be a paying proposition). A number of models are also required for the Geological section. The need for the appointment of an artist-modeller is therefore a pressing one for the improvement of the Museum.

Ed. P.H. Depts

In ~~the circumstate~~ view of the S.G.M's remarks above ~~the~~ the recommendation of the Committee may be accepted and the employment of an Artist-modeller in the scale of Rs. 75-10/2-125 sanctioned temporarily for a period of one year to begin with. Finance may see for remarks.

Ca
31.10.46

8.11

8.11

Finance

15 E&P.H. Deptt

(105)

RECOMMENDATION.

p 63 cf

6. The Committee recommends the full electrification of the buildings, electrification of such parts as the reptile gallery downstairs, where natural lighting is not possible, being taken up first.

CURATOR'S REMARKS.

para 7 on pp 80-81 cf

7. There is nothing in the records to show whether the question of lighting the galleries with electricity has been considered in the past. Nor is the practice prevailing in the other Museums in India and abroad known. It is quite possible that considerations of safety have in the past stood in the way of electrification. It must be remembered that if a fire breaks out, as a result of short circuiting, especially in any of the rooms containing exhibits preserved in alcohol, irreparable damage would be done to the entire Museum and the Connemara Public Library. But the question of safety is one for the authorities of the Electricity Department to decide. It may be stated here that the record blocks in the Madras Record Office, which are full of inflammable material, have been electrified from the very beginning. There are several fans in each record block and a few plug points for hand lamps; but no fires have been known to occur as a result of short circuit or in any other manner.

Office Note

The S.G.M. may be requested to state whether considerations of safety and the possibility of fires ~~bea~~ breaking out referred to by the Curator were considered by the Committee when the recommendation was made and whether the proposal should be proceeded with. If so, the S.G.M. may consult the Chief Engr (Electricity) E.E.(C.) on the question of safety and obtain ~~an~~ estimate of cost for the electrification of the Buildings.

A

SRK

Cwa
24.8.46

SRK
6.9.46

P.W.D

P.W.D

This deptt may agree to the proposal at 'A' above, subject to the modification that the Elec Engr (Civil) may be consulted as he attends to the electrification of Govt buildings.

PKM
16/9/46

17.9.46

SK
19.9.46

20.9.46

15(a)

Finance (Exp C)

The proposal of E.P.H. at 'A' on p 15 above may be agreed to in finance subject to the remarks of P.W. on the same page.

Sd A 20.x.46

The question whether electrification is at all necessary will have to be examined in due course ~~after~~ if the E.E. (Gl) reports that considerations of safety need not stand in the way.

2.10.46

NRV
9.10.46

11.10.46

The provision of electric light throughout the buildings seems to be quite unnecessary. It is sufficient to admit the public during the hours when daylight is adequate. If there are particular parts of the building where the natural lighting is inadequate even during the hours of daylight, the provision of electric lights there may be considered.

11.x.46

Next Fin: note on p. 17 below

E&P.H. Depto

The Finance Secretary's view above may perhaps be accepted and the S.G. m asked to submit estimates in consultation with the Electrical Engr (Gl) for providing electric lights in those parts of the building where natural lighting is inadequate even during the hours of daylight. For orders.

2.11.46

There is also such a thing as showing of things to the best advantage, & not merely to make them visible – Parts of the Museum are in a sort of 'dim religious light' and the eyes of persons have to adapt themselves to different degrees of brightness from room to room. We might electrify the whole building, and give instructions about the sparing use of the lights during daylight hours & on bright days.

8.11.46

16

E&P.H. Depto

RECOMMENDATION p63 cf

8. The Committee recommends that additional provision be made for reserve and duplicate collections, details of which will be worked out by the Sub-Committee mentioned under item 3.

Sub Committees' report

ACCOMMODATION FOR RESERVE AND DUPLICATE COLLECTIONS.

p67 cf

X

Y

P

Reserve collections should be housed in well-lighted and well-ventilated storage rooms where they can be seen and studied. The existing godowns are unsuitable for keeping anything of value and can in the opinion of the Sub-Committee, be used, after improvements such as the provision of exhaust fans, electric lighting and making the floor damp proof, for storing furniture and other miscellaneous articles. The space between the Oriental Manuscript Hall and the present godown is recommended to be utilised for the construction of a low terraced godown to be used as an archaeological godown. This may run the whole length of the Geological Gallery, should be made damp-proof, and the height should be up to the level of the window sills of the Geological gallery.

A similar godown may be constructed on the western side of the Geological galleries.

The reserve collections of the Zoological and Botanical collections may be housed in the space that will be available by the addition of an upper storey to the stuffing room block.

In the block B of the proposed extensions to the Museum buildings, it is essential that cellar accommodation should be provided for taking in relevant reserve and duplicate collections.

CURATOR'S REMARKS.

para 27, pp 92-93 cf

27. In addition to the construction of Block B the Committee has also recommended the construction of a number of godowns for housing reserve and duplicate collections. The demand for godowns space may be said to have been always as great as the demand for gallery space. In 1911 Dr. Vogel observed: "Another desideratum is a godown, some 60 by 30 feet for the storage of archaeological specimens which are not of sufficient interest to be exhibited in the public galleries and yet ought to be preserved in such a way as to be accessible to students of archaeology. As such a building is purely utilitarian, it should be as simple as possible. It should, however, be well lighted. Its site should be chosen in such a way as not to interfere with the scheme sketched above of extending the archaeological galleries along the outside of the museum compound. In case my proposals are adopted, I strongly recommend that the construction of a godown be taken in hand first of all. This will enable us to shelter the antiquities now placed in the open and to store away the prehistorics which are now encumbering the museum offices and the stuffing room." Dr. Henderson, however, considered that a new godown was unnecessary and that the cellars below the mineral gallery could be used as godowns. He added that there was "no very suitable site in the grounds" for constructing a godown. Dr. Vogel's suggestion was not therefore accepted. The present Committee has not suggested the construction of isolated godowns in the grounds but has recommended the conversion of the space between two of the existing blocks of the old buildings and the space adjacent to some of the blocks into godowns. It has proposed that these godowns should be low, terraced structures so that they might not obstruct the windows of the galleries. It is not known whether there will be any objection to the construction of such godowns from the architectural point of view. ~~It is however almost~~

It is however almost certain that from the point of view of light and ventil[illegible] these godowns will be very defective. Of course arrangem[illegible] can be made for providing artificial lighting and ventilation but, apart from the cost of such arrangements, the students of archaelogy and others who wish to study the objects stored in these godowns, may not find these arrangements very satisfactory. The committee has also recommended the provision of cellars below the block B which is proposed to be built. The Public Works Department authorities may be in a position to state whether it is possible to do so.

P.T.O

Office Note

The Committee recommends that addl provision be made for reserve and duplicate Collections. For this purpose the Sub-Committee has suggested the construction of two low terraced godowns — one between the Oriental Manuscripts Hall and the present godown and the other on the western side of the Geological galleries. As the existing godowns are reported to be unsuitable for keeping anything of value the S.G.M. may perhaps be asked to obtain and submit to Govt rough plans and estimates for the construction of the two godowns. For orders.

p16 ante

Para p16 ante

p16 ante

M

P.W.D and Finance ~~may~~ should see.

Cra
24.8.46

SMU
6.9.46

PWD

The proposal at 'M' above may be agreed to

PIH
16/9/46.

SK
19.9.46

8b
18.9.46

10.9.46

Finance (Exp C)

The present proposal is to construct two low terraced godowns in the Museum so as to provide for reserve and duplicate collections. Finance may suggest that this ~~may~~ be taken up for consideration along with the proposal to construct the addl. Block B. Please see the remarks of this Deptt. on pp 2-2(a) above.

SAA
9.10.46

NRV
9.10.46

(Next Fin. Note on p 20 below)

I don't think that this dept

need object to the preparation of plans & estimates.

11.10.46

The amount of space available in the existing godowns is not stated, & no reasons have been given for the statement at X on p.16 above. There seems to be no reason why they should not be used for reserve & duplicate collections if the improvements to them suggested at Y on p.16 above are carried out. It seems desirable to get a report from the S.G.M. on these points before deciding whether it is essential to call for plans & estimates for new godowns now.

P

11-x-46

E&P.H. Deptt

With reference to Finance Secretary's note above a draft memo to the S.G.M. is submitted.

Cra
2.11.46

18 E&P.H. Deptt

(108)

RECOMMENDATION,

10. ASSISTANT CURATORS:-- The Committee feels that there is need for the appointment of two Assistant Curators to work as Guide Lecturers and to assist the Curators. The scale of pay suggested for the Asst. Curators is Rs. 75-10/2-125.

pp 63 cf

Qualification:- B.A. in History for the Assistant Curator to be attached to the Archaeological and Anthropological sections and B.A. or B.Sc. in Natural Science for the Asst. Curator for the Natural Science Sections, with proficiency in Tamil and Telugu. The Selected candidates should be given training for three months after appointment.

CURATOR'S REMARKS.

pp 131-132 cf

~~In the following year~~ The problem (of the illiterate visitor) was again raised by the Museums conference held at New Delhi. This conference passed a resolution in the course of which it stated that special efforts should be made to bring the general public into closer contact with the Museums. It said, "since the majority are illiterate and can therefore best be reached through exhibits explained by the spoken word it is essential that special guide lecturers should be provided". But when this resolution was referred to the Superintendent of the Government Museum, Dr. Gravely, he stated "To enable the Museum to afford eduction to illiterates as Museums alone can, efficient guide lecturers fluent in the more important languages of the Province are essential. In view of the financial difficulty of adding to the staff at present, however, we decided to await a lead from the Museum conference where it was hoped that I might learn from other delegates of self supporting schemes that were said to be in use in certain museums in the north. All I was able to learn, however was that such schemes proved to be impracticable, especially for illiterates in large public museums such as this. And nothing, consequently, has yet been done." Since the Superintendent himself did not think it possible to appoint guide lecturers the question was again dropped.

The Superintendent of the Museum has now pointed out that the only way of dealing with the problem is the appointment of guide lecturers or decents as they are called in America. He states that the Nagpur Museum has already appointed a guide lecturer and that the Bombay Museum is also thinking of appointing similar lecturers. As has been shown above thirty years ago it was the opinion of the experts that attempts to educate the masses directly through the museums would be ~~fertile~~ futile and that they were likely to scare them away from the Museums, but now the opinion seems to have changed and it is considered to be the duty of museums to educate them with the assistance of guide lecturers.

p 21 cf

Office note

Please see paras 69-74 of the Curator's note for a full account about the question of the Museum and instruction of the visitors. N 128-132 cf

2 There are at present six Curators in the Madras Museum — one each for the Chemical Conservation, Archaeology, Anthropology, Botany, Zoology and Numismatic sections. The scale of pay of the Curators is Rs. 100-10/2-200. The Committee states that there is need for the appointment of two Asst Curators to work as Guide Lecturers and to assist the Curators. In view of the fact that such Guide lecturers are being appointed in other museums, the Committee's recommendation may be accepted and two Asst Curators sanctioned. The pay proposed for these new posts, viz. Rs. 75-10/2-125 and the qualifications suggested for them may also be approved. The posts may be sanctioned temporarily for a period of two years in the first instance. For orders.

Finance may see for remarks.

24.8.46

SRK
6.9.46

Fin. E3

---

pp 19-20 above

E3

The proposal is to sanction 2 ~~posts of~~ Asst Curators to work ~~as~~ Guide-lecturers and to assist the Curators. The proposal is ~~[illegible]~~ based on the recommendations of the Committee appointed to suggest improvements to the Museum. The notes on pages 18-~~20~~ above ~~[illegible]~~ explain the proposal fully. Submitted that the need for having guides to afford ~~education~~ to illiterates may be accepted. It is ~~perhaps~~ presumably ~~not~~ possible for ~~[illegible]~~ the present ~~staff of~~ 6 Curators to attend to this work.

see pages 62 & 63 CF

p. 19 above.

2. The scale of pay proposed ~~for~~ Asst curators, viz, 75-10/2-125, overlaps with the scale of pay for Curators, viz. 100-10/2-200. This dept may perhaps suggest a scale of 75-5/2-100, the scale now allowed to the photographer, Madras City Police, which seems ~~[illegible]~~ adequate. If this suggestion is agreed to, the cost of the proposal will be ~~of~~ Rs 2592 p.a.

DWD

Av 90
Dearness allce 18
108×2
216×12
2592 pa
75
71 10

3. From para 2 on p 19 above it will be seen that the proposal to appoint guides is a new one. As the extra cost is over Rs 2500 p.a., the proposal should be treated as a new service, in case it is to be introduced in the current year.

DWD

The case may be returned to Edn with the above remarks

10.10.46

The proposal does not seem to be so urgent that it should be introduced in the current year. Fin. may advise that it may be brought forward as a Part II Scheme for 1947-8 if it can be held to satisfy the criteria of essentiality recently laid down in Fin. u.o. note 54303 BS/1 of 9. 10.46.

DWD

10.10.46

7.10.46.

Apparently if it does not, it may be deferred for consideration as a Pt II scheme for 1948-9

DWD

11.10.46.

E&P.H. Deptt

p20 ante

The Finance deptt suggest that the proposal for the employment of two Asst Curators (Guide Lecturers) may be deferred for consideration in 1948-9 as it is not urgent. The suggestion may be accepted. For orders.

Cosa
2.11.46

Pl see my remarks on the main N.F at P19.

E&P.H. Deptt

Recommendation:-

10. Art Gallery: The Committee considers that the Victoria Technical Institute Building on the Pantheon Road is eminently suitable for being used as an Art Gallery provided the following suggestions are carried out:--

pp62-65 cf

(a) In the matter of pictures (1) along with other methods of acquisition of pictures, the idea of acquiring pictures through periodical exhibitions of the works of individual artists be fully explored.

(2) the acquisition of pictures should be made through a representative expert committee consisting of nominees of the Victoria Technical Institute Council and nominees of the Govt.

(b) an officer of gazetted rank, borne on the establishment of the Govt. Museum, with sufficient experience of art galleries generally and of running exhibitions and with administrative and organising ability, a salary in the scale of Rs. 250-350 (initial pay to be fixed according to qualifications) should be appointed to be in full administrative charge of the Art Gallery;

(c) the following funds should be set apart for initial and recurring expenditure solely for the acquision of exhibits; Initial expenditure Rs. 2,00,000/-, recurring expenditure Rs. 20,000/- annually;

(d) the officer incharge of the Art Gallery should be given an adequate establishment consisting (1) of an Asst. (Pay Rs. 100-10/2-200) with knowledge of publicity matters and (2) of clerks and menials.

**

Curator's Remarks.

ART GALLERY:

pp 132-133 cf

The records show that an art gallery was begun on a small scale in 1900. About this the Superintendent reported as follows "A new departure was made by the exhibition of paintings (some the property of the fine arts society) by native artists in Southern India which are of interest as showing the great progress which has been made in recent years and the advance over the old style of portrait painting with abundant introduction of gold leaf. An excellent landscape by Mr. C. Raja Raja Varma entitled "the Lohagad, one of Sivaji's mountain fortresses" was acquired by purchase." The Superintendent also reported the addition of coconut and ivory carvings a collection of China belonging to the East India Company, a pithe model of a Hindu Temple etc-, to the art gallery. The collection of pictures in the art gallery however seems to have increased only very slowly. In the course of forty years only about 70 pictures seem to have been added to the collection. In 1936 the Superintendent reported that the pictures were deteriorating and that in the absence of persons who could restore them he had on the recommendation of the Museum Commission protected them against further damage by glazing and wooden backing. The Number of pictures in the Museum at present is stated to be 315. Of these no less than 241 were acquired after 1942. The proposal to inform a regular picture gallery or an art gallery at any rate, on the scale on which the Committee now propose does not appear to have been considered before, evidently because it was believed that the Museum could not undertake the big task of acquiring pictures and organising a gallery. The Committee has recommended that until a regular art gallery is organised the pictures may, in the Victoria Technical Institute, be exhibited in the rooms occupied by the Coins and ethnology stores. ? This will, however, be possible only if the new block B and the godowns are constructed and the coins and the ethnology stores are removed to them. This recommendation of the Committee therefore depends upon the construction of the additional buildings.

Office Note

The Victoria Technical Institute, Egmore, is an institution under private management and is under the control of the Dept of Industries; the Director of Industries & Commerce will have to be consulted on this recommendation in the first instance. Understood from Dev

2. There was a proposal in the Dev deptt for the opening of an Art gallery and the construction of buildings therefor. That deptt may be requested to state what ~~steps~~ action has been taken on the proposal.

28.8.46

6946 Dev

Please see the Dev deptt note on p 10 of the general notes. A draft memo to the Director of Industries & Commerce is submitted.

2.11.46

Pl see p. 20 of the main N.F.

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HANDY GUIDE TO THE PRINCIPAL EXHIBITS OF THE MADRAS MUSEUM.

To find the exhibits referred to in the following pages, and others of the same class, the plan on the previous page should be used. The numbers and letters in the plan show the positions of the following :—

A. Approaches from Pantheon Road.
B. Entrance porches to Museum (front building).
C. Entrance porch to Museum (back building).
D. Entrance porch to Connemara Public Library.

MUSEUM (BACK BUILDING).

Reference.	Ground Floor.	Upper Floor.
1	Vestibule.	Mohenjo-Daro antiquities.
2	Temple architecture.	Coins.
3	Hindu sculpture I.	Scripts and northern sculpture.
4		Memorial stones and snake-stones.
5	Hindu sculpture II.	Economic botany.
6	Buddhist sculpture I.	Botany.
7	Buddhist sculpture II.	
8	Jain sculpture.	
9	Comparative zoology.	
10	Exhibits relating to elephants.	
11	Geology.	
12	Frogs, toads, etc.	
13	Reptiles.	Invertebrates I (corals, worms, etc.).
14	Birds.	Invertebrates II (shells, insects, starfish, etc.).
15	Mammals (warm blooded animals).	Fish.
16	Comparative zoology and stairs to upper floor.	
17	Painting.	Coin room – Ethnology store
18	CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY.	

MUSEUM (FRONT BUILDING).

Reference.	Ground Floor.	Upper Floor.
19	Arms.	Anthropology.
20	Arms.	Anthropology.
21	} Library.	Anthropology (musical instruments).
22		Anthropology.
23	Arms.	Jain and selected Hindu images.
24		Wood and ivory carvings.
25		Metal work, china, etc.
26	Prehistoric antiquities from Adichanallur and Perumbair.	Saivite and miscellaneous images.
27	Prehistoric antiquities.	Vaishnavite images.
28	MUSEUM THEATRE.	

This leaflet is intended to direct visitors to the different galleries and to draw attention to the most important exhibits in each. In the space available it is impossible adequately to explain any exhibits. Explanatory labels will be found in the galleries and those who cannot read them should get their friends to do so.

Metal Work.—In the gallery devoted to miscellaneous types of metal work there will be found a collection of South Indian lamps, articles used in household and temple worship, combs, boxes, betel-nut cutters, trays, water-vessels, toys, etc. One end of this gallery is occupied by a small collection of Tibetan and Nepalese metal figures, lamps, etc. for comparison with the South Indian collection. South Indian images in bronze form, however, much the most important part of the metal work collection. Most famous among them is the Dancing Siva (halo missing) at the top of the stairs. A somewhat smaller figure in the same row bears on its pedestal a date corresponding to 1510 A.D. and is the only dated figure in the collection, but the two to the left of it clearly belong to about the eighth and the eleventh or twelfth centuries A.D. respectively. Two galleries are devoted to Saivite and Vaishnavite images, and Buddhist images occupy the corridor beside the former. Among Vaishnavite images special attention may be called to the beautiful set of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman—the last mentioned (in an adjoining case) a wonderful expression of the devotion to man of an animal servant.

Wood Work, Ivory, etc.—A number of figures from Hindu mythology, including some not represented in metal, will be found among the collection of carvings from temple cars in the neighbouring passage, where there is also an exquisitely finished sandalwood casket with Siva destroying three demons carved above and other mythological and jungle scenes on the sides. There is a small collection of carved beams, lintels, etc., from old houses on the staircase, together with scenes from the Ramayana from a temple.

Anthropology, Arms and Prehistoric Antiquities.—Prominent among the anthropological exhibits are the collections of South Indian musical instruments, and jewelry models of the types of hut used by various primitive tribes. There is also an interesting collection of old writing implements and materials, and of materials for primitive fire-making and sorcery, as well as some fine transparencies of Malayali devil-dancers in full costume. There is a human sacrifice post just outside the prehistoric gallery.

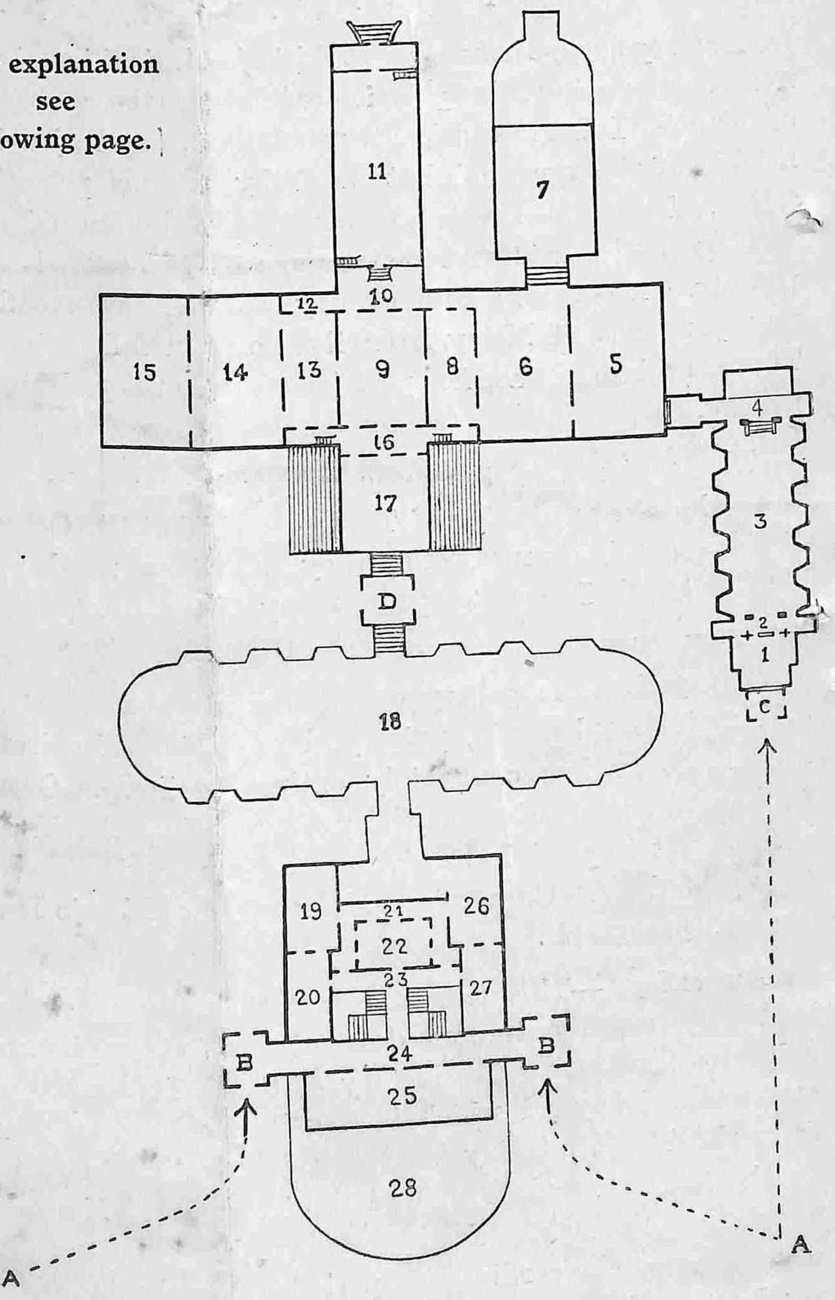
The contents of the arms gallery have mostly come from the old armouries of Tanjore and Fort St. George. Besides guns, cannon, etc., they include a number of smaller South Indian weapons, many of them exquisitely ornamented.

The prehistoric gallery contains relics, such as stone and metal implements, pottery, beads, etc., of cultures now more or less completely extinct in India. Owing to the unfortunate absence of any direct geological evidence it is as yet impossible to give even an approximate date to any of them. Concerning exhibits from Mohenjo-Daro see next paragraph.

Archæology.—The turn-stile at the main entrance lead to a small anteroom devoted to photographs and diagrams illustrating the history of South Indian temple architecture, beyond which is a gallery where sculpture from the Tamil country is arranged according to period on the left and sculpture from the Telugu and Kanarese districts on the right. In the balcony above are examples also arranged according to period of sculpture from further north, mostly representing earlier types, and inscriptions and diagrams illustrating the development of South Indian scripts. Antiquities from Mohenjo-Daro in

PLAN OF MUSEUM BUILDINGS.

**For explanation
see
following page.**



the Indus Valley, belonging to the time of transition from the Stone Age to the Age of Metals, occupy the room over the entrance, and coins will be found close by. In the corridor at the head of the stairs are snake stones and memorial stones. This corridor leads to the second Hindu sculpture gallery, where further sculpture from the Tamil, Telugu and Kanarese districts is exhibited, including pillars, lintels, corbels and other pieces of architectural interest. The earliest surviving South Indian sculpture comes from Buddhist sites, particularly Amaravati, of which an extensive collection will be found in the next room and its annexe. It includes numerous scenes depicted in vivid and realistic fashion which, though taken from the life and legends of the Buddha, are evidently based on life as it was lived in South India about 2,000 years ago. The Jain gallery contains images of various Tirthankaras together with memorial stones, etc., some of them belonging to the tenth century A.D.

Painting.—The small collection of pictures housed in the Museum contains examples of the work of Raja Raja Varma and Ravi Varma, Travancore artists who worked during about the first fifteen years of the present century; and also of the much older Cuddapah, Kurnool and Tanjore schools of South Indian painting, together with various other pictures.

Zoology.—At the entrance to the zoological galleries several interesting comparative exhibits have been arranged. These include illustrations of the means by which flight is accomplished by various animals; the skeletons of a man, a horse, a whale and an elephant; various structures, ranging from scales, fur and feathers to teeth, horns and membranes, derived from the skin of vertebrates; and series of skulls of buffaloes, cattle and goats illustrating variation in their horns. In the galleries containing amphibia, reptiles, birds and mammals, attention may be called to the special exhibit of the poisonous and harmless snakes of South India, some very large turtles and snake skins, the chameleon with its long tongue fully extended, and various groups shown (as far as is possible in small cases) in natural surroundings.

Invertebrates and fishes will be found on the upper floor. Corals, both as dried specimens and photographed under natural conditions, occupy a prominent place in the first room where illustrations of the life histories of various parasites will also be found. Some of these parasites, such as those causing malaria, are much too small to be visible without great magnification. Others such as the tape-worm, may be many feet in length. In all cases a knowledge of their life histories, which are as remarkable as they are varied, is a valuable aid to avoiding infection. In the next room are shells, lobsters, crabs, centipedes, spiders, insects, etc., and in the last room, fish.

Botany.—In addition to a collection illustrating the principal natural orders of plants, especially such as are found in South India, special collections of South Indian timbers, fibres, etc, are shown.

Geology.—This gallery includes the following three sections; descriptive geology, mineralogy, and economic geology. The first three sets of cases on the left of the gallery are set apart for descriptive geology, illustrating the formation of the earth's crust, mountain building, volcanic activity, etc. Then follow mineralogy and economic geology. In the remaining cases on the ground floor facing the central aisle are exhibited selected examples of the principal minerals of South India including rocks and ores. The cases at the back of these contain associated exhibits of economic interest, with building stones arranged along the north-western wall.

A collection of fossils with a representative collection of all the minerals and rocks of South India will be found in the balcony above.

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