Ross Johnston Esq.
College Road
Nungumbaukum
15th March 1898

Dear Mr. Arundel,

I wish much to call and see you about a matter which I have greatly at heart, but I am at present too weak to get about much so must write to save time in bringing it to your notice:-

The matter is this:- I have for years past been giving my attention to the Prehistoric Antiquities of South India and have formed a large and very valuable collection of them. Many friends who have seen it are very urgent that I should make it available to the students of this most interesting

My dear Forbes
I had better
hand this over
to you. I have
told Bruce Foote
I am doing so.
Yours sincerely
A.A.

My dear [illegible]
You are ~~[illegible]~~
Yours

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Yours v. D
A.A.

My dear [illegible]
You are [illegible]
Yours [illegible]

branch of Archaeological Science
but, while still in Official harness,
I could do but very little beyond
registering the many finds I made.

What should be done speedily
is to publish a Catalogue raisonné
of the collection followed by an
illustrated volume of notes on
the nature of the many objects of
interest found and of their
relation to the several prehistoric
peoples known to have occupied
the country. Both the Catalogue
and volume of notes have been
in hand some time but I find
that now I am retired I cannot
afford the expense of publication
unless I can secure the help of
Government in the matter, and
is with reference to this that I
wish to see you to gain your
interest and strong influence
with the Government.-

My health has unfortunately been
very bad of late but this makes
me only the more anxious to be
able to tackle the work with energy
as soon as my doctors will allow
me to return to Yercaud where
I have my collection.-

Among the friends to whom my
collection is known and who are
urgent upon me to publish about
it I may mention Mr. C. Michie
Smith, Mr. Thurston, Dr. Bourne
Mr. Le Fanu, Mr. Robert Sewell
Mr. H. T. Knox, the Revds. Thomas
Foulkes, Dr. Miller and Maurice
Phillips, & Mr. Griesbach and

Mr. R. D. Oldham of the ind
× more lately Sir Mackworth [illegible]
Young, Colonel Donald Robert
General Gossett, Mr. Lewis Ric
(State Archaeologist, Mysore)
Dr. J. W. Evans (State Geologist,
Mysore) and Professor Tait of
the Bangalore College, all men
of culture and taste who appreciate the value of my work.—
By their advice I propose asking
Govt. to aid me by a small
grant to enable me to engage an
assistant and draftsman to
complete my Catalogue Raisonné
at once which would render
the collection fully available to
all archaeologists even if I were not

2.

ared to complete the volume
of notes.— As soon as the Catalogue is finished I propose
offering the collection to Government at a fair valuation to
prevent its dispersal when I am
gone.—

In the mean time I would suggest that a grant of say Rs 50.
p.m., for a year, would go far
to defray the expense of an assistant and enable me to purchase
several costly books of reference
that are essential to the work at
present.

I enclose a brief synoptical list
of my collection which will show
you how large and diversified

it is and how great a pity
it would be if it were not man-
more generally known by speedy publication.
The speech of Sir John Evans
as President of the British Asso-
ciation at Toronto last year
showed how specially great is the
interest attaching to the Archaeo-
logy of Madras which my Collection
illustrates so fully. –
My work is well known to the
Archaeologists in England as I
have published several papers
about it at different times, a
fairly complete list of which is given
in Mr. R. D. Oldham's Bibliography
of the Geology of India. – My last
was a chapter on Prehistoric

economic Geology in my Memoir
on the Geology of Bellary District
published last year. –
I know well how precious your
time is but if, as I am ill and
unable to wait upon you, you
could kindly come and see
me I should deem it a great
favour. – A short talk about
the illustration and publication
of the two books would, I flatter
myself, advance my cause
materially. –

Believe me, Dear Mr. Arundel
Yours sincerely
R. Bruce Foote

P.S. My list is drawn up from

memory and therefore imp
as much of the Neolithic
especially, has been packed away for
several years for want of Cabinet room.
The several Groups vary much in
size numerically — but the whole collection
numbers many thousand specimens.

For comparison with that Collection
I have another smaller but very
valuable one, of European, American
African, Australian and Extra-
Indian Asiatic prehistoric remains
which will be of great value in
working out the affinities.

R.B.F.

was a chapter on Prehistoric

Synoptical List —

of the Groups of Objects composing
Mr. Foote's collection of Prehistoric
Antiquities

Group I. Palaeolithic Implements

a. from the Coast laterite of
Madras, North Arcot, Nellore
and Trichinopoly Districts.

b. from the high level gravels and
laterites of Kadapa, Mysore
Bellary Kurnool and other
parts of the Deccan. —

c. from Rewa, Baroda and
Northern Gujarat.

Several of these have already been
figured and published which
adds largely to their intrinsic value.
Over 100 specimens. —

Group II Neolithic Implements.

a. Cutting tools of many types — e.g.
axes (celts) adzes, chisels, choppers

in a finished state (all more or less polished). Many hundred specimens

2. Cutting tools in an incomplete state but of great interest as illustrating the several stages of manufacture to be passed through.
Several hundred specimens

3. Non cutting tools & other objects.
Ringstones
Thumb stones
Hammers, square, round & belted
Hammer-axes
Mealingstones
Mullers
Pestles of several types
Mortars do do
Anvils
Stone vessels
Troughs large, deep & shallow
{ Slab with groove for polishing and edging cutting tools.
Hones and whetstones
Slickstones

contd Spindle whorls
Net sinkers
Bill cores
Carved stone figures
Stone discs

Group III. Unpolished Neolithic Implements:

Strikers, of many types
Flakers, cylindrical, square, oval.
Scrapers of several types
Mallets do do
Corncrushers
Worked flakes
Unworked flakes, knives, lancets, drill points, arrow-heads (?).
Cores of agate, chert, jasper, lydian stone, rock crystal, quartz, quartzite, flint &c

Punches
Saws
Slingstones
Potboilers

Sponge stones
Strike-a-lights
Engraving tool.

Educational (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

W2
9/15

G.O., No. 289

Dated 7-5-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sanctioning a gran
in-aid of Rs 600 to Mr R Bruce
Foote towards the compilati
of a Catalogue raisonné of h
collection of prehistoric Antiquit
of Southern India & of the volume
of illustrated notes by which h
proposes to follow it up; and re
questing the Finl Dept to prov
the necessary funds.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	CN 711/98						

[G./9]
1,000—19-2-97.

Educational
~~Public~~ (1898) **Department.**

D. O No. 212

To await reply from Mr
Thurston re: then:
(see inside for secy's orders)

From R. Bruce Foote Esq

D. O.

No.

Dated 26th march 98

Received } 29th " "
Registered }

Enclosures —

Spare copies —

SUBJECT.

re: his letter to Govt.
seeking help towards the
completion & publication
of the catalogue of re
of his collection of
Prehistoric remains

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

D.O. 212.

1 College Road
Nungumbaukum
28th March 1880

Dear Mr. Arundel,

I have to thank you for passing on my letter to Mr. Tremenheere; in so doing I would however remark that my object in seeking some help from Government towards completing and publishing a Catalogue raisonné of my large and unique Collection of Prehistoric remains is not the purely selfish one you seem to think it without any "quid pro quo" in return for the help asked.

To my apprehension the case stands thus: The publication of my Catalogue, which it is my especial object to hasten for fear of my health failing me again, will give to all students of the Prehistoric Archaeology of Southern India a very large body of collected facts which at present is solely in my possession, and a long list of localities where further researches may be made advantageously as they were not exhausted by generally brief examinations. — These localities are at present known to me only in very many cases, and I could continue to exploit them solely to my own advantage, if I were so inclined. — This however is not my wish and in case my request for assistance be acceded to I could in a very few days furnish Government with a long list of localities in the Madras Presidency where further prehistoric explorations could be set on foot which would add largely to the already existing & good collection in the Madras Museum. — This collection has never yet been catalogued and it has struck me that I might add a list of its contents to my catalogue as an appendix, or the two would supplement each other. — Furnishing Government with the list of localities and drawings of the Madras Catalogue would I think constitute a "present quid pro quo" of a very substantive kind.—

The completion of my catalogue is an essential preliminary to the valuation of my collection of which I again offer the first refusal to Government on completion of the Catalogue which will very greatly enhance its value.—

The actual numerical strength of my collection I have not yet ascertained as a large part of it has for want of Cabinet room been packed away for several years.

All I can say at present is that the whole collection numbers several thousands of specimens the Cataloging of which if unaided would occupy a long time and thus postpone indefinitely the issue of the Catalogue which I am so specially anxious to expedite.

Believe me Sincerely yours

R. Bruce Foote

To Secy. Educl. Dept.

Mr. Bruce Foote's present proposal is as vague as his first.

If he were to offer to make the Govt. contribution he desires, a first lien on his collection, there would be a businesslike proposal. The proposal to give Govt. first refusal to purchase his Colln. is of little use until he states ~~whether~~ what he is going × to ask for it.

AH 28.3.98

Mr. Thurston has been asked this. Await his reply. HT 28.3.98

as his first.

If he were to offer to make the Govt. contribution he desires, a first lien on his collection, there would be a business like proposal. The proposal to give Govt. first refusal to purchase – his Colln. is of little use until he states ~~whether~~ what he is going × to ask for it.

ALt 28.3.98

Mr. Thurston has been asked this. Await his reply. HJ 28 3 98

C2-4-98
Ran 98

Educational
~~LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL~~ DEPARTMENT.

Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
~~Current No.~~ Do of 1898, dated 15th March from ~~the~~ } Mr Bruce Foote
~~Current~~ Do No. 212 of 1898, dated 26th March from ~~the~~ }
Do 27th March from Mr Thurston.

SUBJECT.

Prehistoric remains of ~~Southern~~ India.

H.M.

FOR ORDERS.

Mr Bruce Foote is, as Mr
Thurston says, alone in his
knowledge of the Prehistoric
antiquities of Southern India.
I saw part of his collection many
years ago, & know it is of immense
interest. The small sum of R600
could not be better spent than in
enabling him to draw up an
illustrated catalogue of it. 2.
The opportunity ought not to be
~~lost~~, & if it is lost, the loss
can never be redeemed. R600
is not more than we sh'd be
justified in spending on a 3.
proper catalogue of the col-
lection of prehistoric antiquities
in the museum. We must not
regard R600, however, as the
probable limit of the grant.
Mr B.F. is sure to want more
than R600, if he lives to com-
plete the work which, he says
will take more than a year,

Mr Bruce Foote asks for a grant of Rs. 50 a mo. for 12 mos to help in the compilation of a catalogue raisonné of his valuable collection of Prehistoric Antiquities, to be followed by an illustrated volume of notes.

This is work that most Govts would be glad to help in, but as times are hard it must be seen what the profit is.

When the Catalogue is finished, Mr Foote proposes to offer the collection to Govt at a fair valuation. But as his health is precarious, there must be some ~~kind~~ agreement that

Memorandum

1. The aid of Government is asked towards the expense of publishing a Catalogue Raisonné of a large and scientifically very important collection of Prehistoric Antiquities* made by Mr. Foote, chiefly in the Madras Presidency. –

2. The issue of the catalogue will be a very important contribution to Archaeological Science and an essential preliminary to the valuation of the collection which Mr. Foote wishes to sell as a whole, to prevent its dispersal after his death, and therefore proposes to offer it to Government in the first place, on completion of the catalogue.

3. Mr. Foote cannot, now that he has retired, meet unaided the entire expense of publishing his catalogue so, by the advice of scientific friends and others who know the value of his collection asks Government to aid him towards the immediate

* e.g. Palaeolithic (chipped) implements; in Neolithic polished implements; axes, adzes and chisels, hammer axes, hammers, ringstones, pestles & mortars, stone vessels, carved stone figures &c. Neolithic unpolished implements; Flakers scrapers, worked flakes, knives, lancets, drills, punches, saws &c. Antique stone beads of many kinds. – Glass and paste beads. Pottery of Neolithic and Early Iron age Domestic, funeral and sacrificial in very great variety; – Beads, Female Terra Cotta figures with curly hair & combs, Neckrests, toys, tuyères. Antique Glass and Shell bangles Iron implements.

completion of his Catalogue lest by another breakdown of his health the great mass of facts he has collected should be partially lost to Science.

4. In immediate return for the help of Government Mr. Foote offers to supply a list of many prehist localities in the Presidency, now known to himself only, where further explorations would yield large and valuable additions to the collection now in the Museum.

Mr. Foote would also with pleasure draw up a catalogue of the present Museum Collection of which no list has as yet been prepared.

5. Mr. Foote's Collection contains several thou specimens of which many are unique and of great intrinsic value, and all are rigidly authenticated as to the localities at which th were found.

6. Mr. Foote's catalogue raisonné is already well in hand, and if he be aided should be completed within a year, or very little longer

7. The aid suggested in a letter to Mr. Arn the Chief Secretary was a grant of 50Rs a mo for a year, wherewith to engage a competent assistant to complete the M.S. catalogue

and: to purchase some essential books of reference.-

8 Several years ago Mr. Garstin who had seen Mr. Foote's Collection, as it then was, expressed himself, when Member of Council, as willing to favour a grant in aid of publication of a catalogue but pressure of work in the Geological Survey Dept. was at the time too heavy to admit of the preparation of the catalogue in question and the matter fell through. The collection has since then increased very greatly in size and yet far more in scientific value.-

Madras
March 1898 -

753-16

and after the MSS is complete, it will have to be published. However, the expense in connection with the catalogue will only be, at most, a small matter.

Mr B. F. is shown by his long record of service & general opinion to be a thoroughly reliable man, whilst in an ordinary state of health, but that is failing, so it is necessary to impose conditions which will bind his executors as well as himself.

1. He must engage to offer the collection to Govt at a fair valuation fixed by arbitrators. He shd name his arbitrator. We might name Mr Thurston as ours. If the two differ, it shd be left to them to appoint a third.

2. He must engage to catalogue the Museum Collection, when the time for doing so is fixed by Mr Thurston.

3 He must let Mr Thurston see the collection, & get a general idea of it when he visits Yarcand next month.

If Mr B. F. agrees to this, & to sign an agreement to this effect prepared by our law officers, would bind his Executors

4. Mr. Thurston will see the Collection next month & will if desired advise Govt. of what a fair valuation wd be, after discussion with Mr. Foote.

5. May Mr. Thurston be told to do so, & Mr. Foote informed that a decision will be come to on his request ~~on~~ after hearing from Mr. Thurston

H.T.
30 3 98.

the Rs 600 shd be sanctioned at once. Time is of importance. We may tell Mr B. F. that we shall be glad to get the List he promises, but it is impossible to say what its value will be.

I append a Memorandum sent me by Mr ~~B.R.~~ B.F. It is to the same effect as his letter to the C.S.

Mr B~~R~~ hopes to be in Yarcand in 10 days, so he will be there when Mr Thurston comes. Mr Thurston shd be requested to see what he can of the collection & form an approximate estimate of what Govt will be able to get it for eventually.

J.G.
2/4/98

W4/674

Secy

~~DO~~

Edn Deptt

6-4-98

To

R. Bruce Foote Esq^re — Despd 7/4/98

Sir,

~~B~~ In reply to your letters of the 15th and 26th ~~ultmo~~ 1898, asking that Govt. should help you, by a grant of ~~Rs~~ 50 a month for 12 months, in the compilation of a catalogue raisonné of your collection of Prehistoric Antiquities of South India, to be followed by an illustrated volume of notes, and offering to give the first refusal of your Collection to Government after the completion of the catalogue, I am to inform you that in view of your ~~particular~~ knowledge of the S.S.R. subject and S.S.R. of the value & interest of your collection, the Government is prepared to accede to your request if you will agree to be bound by the following conditions

2. The first is:—

That you will engage to offer your Collection to Government at a fair valuation to be fixed by arbitrators, one of whom will be named by yourself and the other by Government, with power to ~~[illegible]~~ appoint a third in case of difference of opinion.

(2.) That you ~~will~~ engage to catalogue the Madras Govt. Museum Collection of Prehistoric antiquities, ~~when the time for~~ ~~[illegible]~~ at a time to be fixed by the Superintendent of the Govt. Museum.

(3.) That you will let Mr. Thurston, the Superintendent of the ~~Madras~~ Govt. Museum see your collection & get a general idea of it ~~when he visits Yercaud~~ during his ~~next month's~~ approaching visit to Yercaud.

3. On your agreeing to these conditions and to sign an agreement to this effect to be drawn up on behalf of Government ~~the [illegible] will be [illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ a lump grant of ~~Rs~~ 600 will be sanctioned at once so that the work of preparing the catalogue may be put in hand without delay. The completion of the work is a matter which Govt. considers of high educational importance.

S.R. 4.4.98

J.T. 5/4 J.S.

No. 897 Govt. 7-4-98.

Memo.

The Superintendent of the ~~Madras~~ Govt. Museum

Desp'd 7/4/98

will be requested to inspect the collection of Prehistoric Antiquities of South India ~~at Yer~~ belonging ~~to the~~ Mr. R. Bruce Foote at Yercaud ~~and make such [illegible] to [illegible]~~ with a view to forming an approximate estimate of the amount which Govt. Could eventually purchase it.

S.R. 4.4.98

J.T. 5/4 J.S.

[F. / 48]
1,000—25-11-96.

~~Financial~~ Educational (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. ~~1154~~ 539

Order

From

Mr. R. Bruce Foote
1. College Road
Nungumbakum

No.

Dated 11 April 98

Received ~~15~~ . . 22nd Ap., 98
from roty

Registered ~~16~~ . . 22nd Ap., 98

Enclosures —

Spare copies. —

SUBJECT.

Stating that he is prepared to accept the conditions laid down in G.O. of the 6 Inst. regarding the grant to him of Rs 500/- towards the completion of the catalogue raisonné of his Collection of South Indian Prehistoric Antiquities & to sign an agreement to that effect

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

300-1-2-98.

Ed DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in Proceedings :—

Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
Current No. 539 of 1898, dated 11th April , from Mr R Bruce Foote
" " " 189 , " , "
" " " 189 , " , "

No. 289 27-5-98

ORDER.

Secy

mis

H.E. the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction a grant in aid of Rs 600 to Mr R. Bruce Foote towards the compilation of a Catalogue raisonné of his Collection of Prehistoric Antiquities of South India and of the volume of Illustrated notes by which he proposes to follow it up. The Financial Dept will be requested to provide the necessary funds.

2. Copy of Mr Bruce Foote's letter and of the D.O. to which it is a reply will be forwarded to the Govt Solicitor with the request that he will have the necessary agreement drawn up & executed.

H.T.

To
The Financial Dept
for counter initials.

To
Mr R. Bruce Foote q+o
The Govt Solicitor a+o with copy of DO 9 6-4-98
" A.G. q+o
" Finl Dept a+o

Desp.
12.5.98

A.A. 5.5.98

27 4 98

25.4.98

t appoint a third in

e to prepare a Catalogue
Prehistoric Collection

emm

Mr. Thurston to
himself with my
n the occasion of his approa-
isit to Yercaud.

n reply I have the pleasure of
rming you that I am prepared
cept these conditions and to sign
greement to that effect.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully
R. Bruce Foote

oberts Esq
t. Secretary

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given for copying 7/57
copied 9/6
examined 9/6
signed
189 .

IN G.O., No. , DATED
189 ,

ES TO

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TO.

SPATCH