(1) Number of pages 50

(2) Date of repair 7-7-87

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No. 2006W ~~Press.~~
~~Mis.~~

Dated 20.7.1883 ~~198~~.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I--10,006 I -80.

20th July 1883, No. 2006 W., Public Works.

2006/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General
Account.

Read—the following papers :—

Telegram from Major H. H. COLE, R.E., Simla, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 28th June 1883.

With reference my 111 of ninth instant, please say whether my proposals are accepted. Money can then be allotted.

Telegram from Colonel R. H. SANKEY, R.E., Secretary to the Government of Madras, to Major H. H. COLE, R.E., Simla, dated 29th June 1883, No. 184 E.

Your proposals accepted subject to local inquiry now being made, result of which will be communicated. Meanwhile funds offered may be allotted.

From F. E. BLACK, Esq., Assistant-Engineer, to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Seven Pagodas, Sadras, 30th June 1883, No. 92.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum, No. 1205 C of 26th June 1883, and in reply would suggest that the cost of establishment be charged as follows :—

	RS.
Hampi	3,500
Amarávati	2,100
Seven Pagodas	1,400
Total ...	7,000

G.O., dated 30th June 1883, Mis. No. 1276, Public.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, dated 26th June 1883, No. 1206 C.

Abstract.—Inquiring whether any decision has been arrived at with regard to the disposal of the Amarávati Marbles.

Order—dated 30th June 1883, Mis. No. 1276, Public.

The Public Works Department will be furnished with copy of G.O., 12th June 1883, No. 1151, Public.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

ENCLOSURE.

G.O., dated [illegible]th June 1883, No. 1151, Public.

Read—the following le[illegible] from Dr. J. BURGESS, Archæological Surveyor, Western and Southern India, to [illegible] Chief Secretary to Government, dated Râmesvaram, 5th February 1883, No. 13.

I have the honor to inquire when the sculptures that were packed at Amarávati last season may be expected in Madras.

2. It will be remembered that, after the Madras Government had decided to have them removed, the Government of India requested that they should be left at Amarávati until Major Cole could visit the place. This, I believe, he has done some time ago.

3. It was my intention to have completed the materials collected last year by photographs and drawings made from the stones I had packed as soon as they arrived at Madras and to use the whole in the first volume of the Reports of the Madras Archæological Survey, which I might have prepared during next monsoon. The delay that has occurred will necessarily prevent my completing the materials for this volume during the present season. And, as the work done during one working season has all to be inked in and finished during the following monsoon, it will be impossible to have this present season's work ready for publication before the middle of 1884. And, owing to the very small number of native assistants I have been able to obtain, I am not sure that it will be desirable to publish this season's work by itself. The season is not finished yet however, and I can hardly form a correct estimate of what the total outturn of work may yet be.

4. It is, however, most desirable that I should be furnished with full information respecting the Amarávati Marbles, that I may arrange accordingly for the completion of the materials for my report upon them.

No. 395.

Referred to the Collector of Kistna for early report with reference to G.O., 6th November 1882, No. 1325, Miscellaneous.

(Signed) E. S. LAFFAN,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt.

16th February 1883.

From Captain H. H. COLE, R.E., Curator of Ancient Monuments in India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 2nd December 1882, No. 711.

I have the honor to submit a memorandum on the present condition of the Amarávati Tope containing suggestions for promoting its security and for conserving what remains of its historical sculptures.

Memorandum on the Present Condition of the Amarávati Tope, dated Masulipatam, the 24th November 1882.

Visit to Amarávati.

I have just returned from a careful inspection of the Buddhist ruins at Amarávati and have had the advantage of conferring with Mr. Horsfall, Collector of the Kistna District, who superintended the excavations ordered by the Duke of Buckingham in 1880. I also met Mr. Mackenzie, the Sub-Collector, and Mr. Grant, the Executive Engineer, at Amarávati itself, and am now able to give a description of the remains of the tope and its sculptures, and to offer an opinion on the best means of preserving them.

Previous report on Amarávati.

2. Paragraph 7 of the accompanying report on Amarávati and the panoramic sketch attached to it will explain the condition of the tope after the excavations of 1880 had been completed.

Dr. Burgess's work at Amarávati.

3. Since then Dr. Burgess, Archæological Surveyor for Western and Southern India, spent upwards of a month, between December 1881 and January 1882, in examining the tope and in selecting and packing those sculptures which he considered worthy of removal to the Madras Museum. These stones—numbering 175—were carried to the bank of the River Kistna, about half a mile north of Amarávati, where they now are in a fenced enclosure and under the care of a native custodian. It is scarcely necessary to say that the stones comprise the finest sculptures and the most important historical records of the great tope. They appear to me in good condition and undamaged by the recent floods. They had been taken out of their cases to be freed from the straw which enveloped them, and, as far as I was able to judge, the action of the water had beneficially cleaned the carvings.

2006/2

Number of Sculptures at Amarávati.

4. The number of stone sculptures at Amarávati are as follows :—

(*a*) Sculptures of Dr. Burgess's selection on the river-bank		175
(*b*) Sculptures at the Tope—		
In a shed to the north, in boxes	8	
Do. do. loose	43	
In situ	195	
		246
Total ...		421

Of those that are *in situ, i.e.*, on the circular area covered by the tope and railings, there are several that are undoubtedly in their original places, and from these the position of the railing and that of the mound, which must have been in the centre, can be clearly traced.

Present State of the Ruins.

5. At the northern entrance nearest to the village of Amarávati is the shed in which are the stones deposited in 1877 by Mr. Sewell (see panoramic sketch and references in red). His excavations extended from K to L along the circumference, the remainder of which was excavated by Mr. Horsfall in 1880. Passing round to the west, the stone terrace at the parts marked A is still remaining, although a good deal damaged. At B a portion of the outer railing is in its original position. Further round there is another piece of railing in position (D), and the southern entrance (F) may be traced by the pieces of railing and masonry which still remain. Passing round to the east a large slab (G) is erect, and further on is a portion of the outer railing H. Besides these stones, which *indicate part of the outline of the original structure*, there are various smaller fragments and masonry slabs in position to complete the demarcation of the railing and plinth of the tope itself.

Stones at the Site.

6. Of the 246 stones recorded as being now at the tope, a small proportion go to make up those that remain fixed in position. A good many lie scattered round and about the railings, but the greater number are in the centre of the circle, to which position they were removed for Dr. Burgess's operations.

Original Cause of the Ruin of the Tope.

7. I cannot believe that the shattered condition of the masonry and its carvings can be attributed to the natives of Amarávati, who are mostly Hindus. It is true that the grandfather of the present Zemindar is known to have removed brick and stone from the central mound to build his palace and for the purpose of adding to the temple close to it, but he would have been simply concerned in getting the material and *not in wantonly* defacing the sculptures or smashing up the stone blocks. The demolition of the mound as well as the ruin of the surrounding railings and entrances had been effected before we first knew of the tope through Colonel Mackenzie in 1816; I believe that *the real destroyers were the Muhammadans*, who, under the Iconoclast Alamgir, conquered the district and established themselves in the forts of Kondapilli and Kondavid in the neighbourhood.

Such destruction as Alamgir was wont to deal on all temples of the hated idol-worshippers would have left the sculptures scattered round the tope. The subsequent demolition of the central mound by the Zemindar would have covered them up with layers of earth and debris, to which the subsequent excavation of the tank in the centre (or more probably digging for treasure) would have contributed. I am assured by Mr. Horsfall that the excavation of 1880 overturned no stones from their original places; that the sculptures laid bare were not injured by the process of excavation; and that the central mound had previously disappeared, and no relic or stones were found on its site.

Recent Mischief and Local Custody.

8. Some mischief has, no doubt, been perpetrated by natives using the lime-stone for burning into lime, and some wilful chipping of sculptures has occurred, but *I believe that the prime ruin was caused, as stated, by the Muhammadans.* Looking to the comparatively *good condition of the unbroken sculptures, which are over 1,500 years old*, there is nothing unusual in the climate to cause special deterioration to any of the masonry carvings which Government may seek to preserve on the spot. *The question of local custody is easily disposed of by the provision of a substantial wall, an iron gate, and a native custodian to keep the key.* The place is now easily accessible to any idle boy who wishes to pass away his time in hammering off carved surfaces, but it is really surprising to me how little evidence there is of damage of this kind.

Removal of Stones to Madras.

9. Dr. Burgess's intentions were to have removed the 175 stones—now taken half a mile away to the river-bank—and to have deposited them at the Madras Museum. I do not know where they could be placed at the Madras Museum, which is already far too overcrowded, unless they were displayed in the open grounds. *Here, however, they would be subject to the more destruc-*

tive atmospheric conditions of a town. As I have stated in my note on Amarávati, of the 11th May, *casts are as good as originals for all scientific purposes*; and, if casting is undertaken, copies can be sent to as many Museums in India or Europe as like to pay the cost of a set. The removal of the stones from Amarávati has, I submit, but a single argument in its favor, viz., that Amarávati is at present very inaccessible. Looking, however, to the future, are we justified in supposing that Amarávati and the fertile Kistna District will always be 150 miles from a railway? It is increasing in wealth, and is now, with its annual revenue of over forty lakhs of rupees, the third richest district in the whole of Madras. Should Haiderabad be connected as proposed with the East Coast, the line of railway must pass near Amarávati and so make it easily accessible to travellers and savants.

Recommendations for Preservative Remedies.

10. The recommendations I beg leave to submit for the conservation of the Amarávati Tope are as follow:—

(1) The masonry terrace-rails and fragments now in their proper positions and described at paragraph 5 of this note should be rendered secure. The existing portions of terrace should be relaid on concrete and in cement. The rails should be supported in their places by a solid foundation of concrete and by using iron bars to prop the uprights and hold them in position.

(2) All the fragmentary sculptures should be collected and placed under a permanent shed in the centre of the circular enclosure.

(3) The bank of earth formed round the tope by the demolition of the mound in past years should be gently sloped off so as to prevent the falling in of earth, such as has occurred during the last rains. This will probably lead to the discovery of more stones; two fresh ones had been partly revealed in the bank and were got out during my visit by Mr. Mackenzie, the Sub-Collector.

(4) A masonry wall seven feet high should be erected round the ruins and have an entrance gate at the north under lock and key.

(5) Near this gate should be a small house for the native custodians.

Disposal of the Sculptures at the River-bank.

11. In regard to the 175 carved stones at the river-bank, I should, if free to do what I thought best, *take them back to the site of the tope* and send casts of them to the Madras and other Museums where Asiatic antiquities are appreciated. *This course I strongly commend to Government. The conservation of the structure will not be promoted by still further scattering its component parts*, and I do not see what special benefit will be secured by removing the originals to the Madras Museum as proposed. The Amarávati Tope is the most important and ornate Buddhist Monument known to exist in the Madras Presidency, and this will, I think, be most fittingly acknowledged by having casts of its best sculptures made for Museums in India and in Europe.

Casts.

Repairs.

12. Any attempt to restore the structure—unless it is possible to ascertain with certainty the former position of particular portions—is most undesirable, but the majority of the stones are easily identified as being parts of the railing or plinth, and their retention at the Amarávati enclosure would be an *in situ* preservation even if they were not in their original structural positions and were merely placed on the ground so as to be easily inspected and examined.

Photographs.

13. It would be expedient to have all the best Amarávati sculptures photographed, and, if the recommendations in this note are adopted, completion photographs should illustrate the condition of the tope and the beneficial effect of the remedies. It would, however, be necessary to employ a good professional photographer to take the negatives (which should become the property of Government for printing by a permanent process), as amateur work is usually unsatisfactory and not worth using for purposes of publication.

Special Officer for Repairs.

14. It will be necessary to charge a special officer with the duty of carrying out these suggestions, and the arrangements will, I hope, be undertaken at once. The cost, exclusive of casts and photography, will probably be some Rs. 5,000.

(Signed) H. H. COLE, Captain, R.E.,
Curator of Ancient Monuments in India.

No. 451.

Referred to the Archæological Surveyor of Southern India for an expression of opinion on Captain Cole's recommendations, and more especially on the question of preservation *in situ* as opposed to removal to, and exhibition in, a Museum regarded from the point of view of archæological research.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

27th February 1883.

2006/3

From J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Masulipatam, 3rd March 1883, No. 575.

In reply to the Order of Government, Public Department, No. 395, of the 20th February 1883, upon Dr. Burgess's letter inquiring when the marbles now packed at Amarávati may be expected in Madras, I have the honor to state that these marbles were not despatched during the current year, pending Captain Cole's inspection and the issue of specific instructions regarding their disposal. Should the Government so order, arrangements can be made for their removal in June or July next after the Kistna has received a sufficient supply of water.

No. 524.

Communicated to the Archæological Surveyor of Southern India for an expression of his views in connection with Captain Cole's letter referred to him by endorsement, No. 451, of 27th ultimo.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

12th March 1883.

From Dr. J. BURGESS, Archæological Surveyor, Western and Southern India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Gujarat, 9th March 1883, No. 24.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your No. 451 of 27th ultimo, with Major Cole's memoranda, dated 11th May and 24th November, relative to the Amarávati Tope, and requesting my opinion thereon.

2. Before adverting to the main purport of the papers, I may notice two points:—*First*, Major Cole has so emphasized his theory that "*the real destroyers*" of the Amarávati Stupa were the Muhammadans that it may be as well to observe that all the evidence is against him. When Colonel Mackenzie first unearthed the many slabs marked on his plan (which Major Cole has reproduced in the papers under consideration), the human figures were nowhere defaced in the way Muhammadans universally treat such imagery, nor is there a particle of evidence to show that the rails had not been covered over by debris centuries before the birth of "the Iconoclast Alamgir." Again, of the stones excavated and left on the spot by Colonel Mackenzie, we know from the testimony of his own drawings and of Sir Walter Elliot that all had disappeared between 1819 and 1848. We find others built into Hindu temples and wells that were constructed between the time of the destruction of the Central Stupa by the old Hindu Zemindar in the latter half of last century and that of the first visit of Colonel Mackenzie. All this and other evidence that I need not here adduce goes to show that Major Cole is quite mistaken in his belief that "*the prime ruin*" was caused by the Muhammadans.

3. *Secondly*, in paragraph 14 (page 4) of his report, Major Cole tries to make out that I advocate different policies in Bombay and in Madras Presidency with respect to the preservation of remains *in situ*. Nothing could be more inaccurate; the best reply to such a charge will be found in my correspondence with the Madras Government with reference to the Govindapuram Fort and the Udayagiri temple.

4. As to the main question, I remark that Major Cole (in paragraph 12 of his memorandum of 24th November) grants that any attempt at restoration of any portion of the Amarávati Tope is impracticable, and, though (in paragraph 11) he speaks of "the conservation of *the structure*," he admits that there is no *structure* to conserve. On his own showing, therefore, the remains do not come within the scope of his duties any more than the stupas at Sopárá or at Bhárhut, or any of the remains excavated by General Cunningham, or even my present excavations here. Such remains are entirely archæological in character, and are best left to the disposal of the Government and the Superintendent of the Archæological Survey of the Presidency to which they belong. If General Cunningham may arrange what is to be done at Bhárhut or elsewhere without reference to Major Cole, it may be left also to the Madras Government and myself to arrange what is best to be done at Amarávati. This view I believe would be fully supported by the Government of India. But if Major Cole is allowed to interfere in this instance, it may afterwards be used as a precedent for his interference with General Cunningham's work as well as mine, and, considering the personal animus he has already manifested, this might lead to further difficulties.

5. On the simple ground alone of the remains being purely archæological in character, Government need have no difficulty in deciding to carry out the operations begun last year under my recommendation. Of their propriety I believe every one at all acquainted with the circumstances—such as the Collector, Mr. J. Horsfall; the Sub-Collector, Mr. G. Mackenzie; the Engineer, Mr. Grant; the former First Assistant Collector, Mr. R. Sewell—will agree without hesitation with me. And, if scientific opinion is required, the Government might ask General Cunningham's.

6. As to Major Cole's proposal to lift the fragments of the old terrace and relay the slabs "on concrete set in cement," I cannot refrain from entering a very strong protest against such a course. It would destroy the only portion of the original still left as the builders laid it down. Moreover, Major Cole is not aware that the construction of this terrace reveals a curious chapter in the history of the stupa, and all antiquarians would have cause to regret his ill-considered interference with it.

7. Major Cole's proposed masonry wall, 7 feet high, round the site might, I fear, be only a temptation to Telugu boys—natives of a hilly country—to climb over it. I have already informed Government that I intend revisiting and making further excavations at Amarâvati, and perhaps this wall might be delayed at least till I have done so.

8. For the preservation, as far as possible, of the slabs left on the site and not *in situ*, I would approve of the suggestion to erect a shed over them in the centre of the area and to protect the place by means of a guardian.

9. A whole year has already been unnecessarily lost, and I would now respectfully submit the following for the approval of Government :—

(1) That Government should carry out the arrangements previously sanctioned and have the stones packed removed to Madras as soon as the river and canals will permit. The slabs to be removed include those on the river bank, eight in the small shed near the site, and those from Jaggayapet now at Bezvâda.

(2) The stones should only be unpacked at Madras under my own supervision or orders, as it is my intention to photograph them to scale, and this can best be done, and with least risk of injury, as each is opened out.

(3) If, as Major Cole hints, the whole of the slabs to be removed cannot be properly exhibited in the Madras Museum, some of them may be placed in the Government School of Arts, where a few good specimens would be found most useful as models. But if the Museum is to serve its purpose as an educational agency, separate provision will have to be made for the natural products and the antiquarian collections, when there need be no want of space for these slabs.

(4) If Major Cole can induce other Governments to pay the expense of casts for their Museums, these might be made under the supervision of the Superintendent of the Madras School of Arts. They could be made very much cheaper at Madras than at Amarâvati, and the possession of the originals will save the Madras Government the expense of casts for their Museum.

10. Trusting that these suggestions will be approved and sanctioned by Government, I have, &c.

Letter to Major-General A. CUNNINGHAM, R.E., C.S.I., C.I.E., Director-General of the Archæological Survey of India, dated Fort St. George, 22nd March 1883, Mis. No. 642, Public.

From Captain H. H. Cole, dated 2nd December 1882, No. 111, with attached memorandum.
From Dr. J. Burgess, dated 9th March 1883, No. 24.
Memorandum by Captain Cole on the present condition of the Amarávati Tope, dated April 1882.

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you the papers marginally noted, and to request the favor of an expression of your opinion on the questions at issue between Captain Cole, R.E., and Dr. Burgess in respect of the Amarávati marbles.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

From R. SEWELL, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, Chingleput, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Chingleput, 29th April 1883, No. 2.

I have the honor to address Government with reference to the preservation of the marbles at Amarávati in the Kistna District.

2. These were mostly excavated more than three years ago under orders of His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. Those that I excavated have been lying exposed even longer, viz., since May 1877, or for the last six years. About a year ago Dr. Burgess packed some of the more beautiful specimens for transmission to the Madras Museum, and they were removed to the river bank. They lay there till November waiting for Captain Cole's promised inspection, and meanwhile were exposed to great danger owing to a heavy fresh in the river which swept completely over the cases. Happily no appreciable damage was done according to Captain Cole's reports. But there can be no question that these wonderful sculptures cannot be improved, and, on the other hand, are almost certainly subject to deterioration by their exposure to the fierce heat of the sun in the present season and the heavy tropical rains of the monsoon. As each year passes by and nothing is done to save them, the process of destruction is steadily going on, and, if this treatment is continued, all the rare beauty of the lately-excavated marbles will be lost by their becoming weather-worn like *all* the rest previously excavated. I would, therefore, very earnestly entreat Government to take some immediate steps to save them. Their value is incalculable. They are not only beautiful objects and relics of rare artistic workmanship, but they constitute almost the *only known record* in the whole of India whereby we can learn the manners, customs, costumes, and religious habits of the inhabitants of this country in the early centuries A.D.

2006/4

3. Captain Cole has reported to the Government of India his desire that the marbles should remain where they are. Dr. Burgess desires to have them removed to the safe custody of the Museum at Madras. May I respectfully request that Government will hasten to apply to the Government of India for definite instructions as to the disposal of the marbles, and have their destination settled and the sculptures safely housed before the next monsoon sweeps over them.

4. If this has already been done, I must apologize for troubling you.

From Major-General A. CUNNINGHAM, R.E., C.S.I., C.I.E., Director-General, Archæological Survey, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Simla, 30th May 1883, No. 24.

In reply to your letter, No. 642, dated 22nd March 1883, with its enclosures, asking for my opinion about the disposal of the sculptures taken from the Amarávati Stupa, I have the honor to state as follows :—

There is so little now remaining on the side of the Amarávati Stupa that I do not think it is worth while to attempt any kind of restoration. I am a strong advocate for the conservation of all ancient buildings that actually exist, and also for the restoration of such as can be restored. When I suggested in 1853 that the gateways of the Sânchi Stupa might, with advantage, be removed to the British Museum, my sole object was their preservation, as I was but too well aware of the danger to which they were exposed if left much longer neglected. But since Major Cole obtained his present appointment, I have been a staunch advocate for the complete restoration of the Sânchi Stupa.

As so many of the sculptured stones have already been removed from Amarávati, I agree with Dr. Burgess in thinking that the best thing that can now be done is to place them under cover in the Madras Museum. There they will be both safe and accessible. There also a certain number of the pillars might be set up with their rail-bars and copings complete, sufficient to show what the building actually was in its original state.

The sculptures now lying at Amarávati might be collected together, as suggested by Major Cole, in the centre of the circle of ruins, under a suitable shed, and placed under the charge of a chokidar. Photographs should be taken of all the finer and more interesting specimens both at Amarávati and at Madras. If casts are to be taken, they could be, as Dr. Burgess remarks, much more cheaply made at Madras than at Amarávati.

Order—dated 12th June 1883, No. 1151, Public.

The Government approve of the proposals contained in paragraph 9 of the Archæological Surveyor's letter of 9th March last. The Collector of the Kistna and the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, will be guided accordingly.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

Endorsement—dated 12th June 1883, No. 1152, Public.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department, with reference to letter hence, No. 1001, Miscellaneous, dated 17th May 1883.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

Order—dated 20th July 1883, No. 2006 W., Public Works.

In G.O., No. 1741 W., dated 21st June 1883, an estimate, amounting to Rs. 18,990, for restorative work at the Hampi ruins was sanctioned, the question of appropriation of funds and distribution of allotments being deferred for further consideration.

2. Major Cole has made an offer of Rs. 10,000 on behalf of the Government of India for conservation of monuments generally; this, with the Rs. 5,000 promised * by the Local Government, will admit of an expenditure of Rs. 15,000 in the current official year, which it is proposed to distribute as follows :—

	RS.
Mr. Black's salary, establishment, &c.	7,000
For Hampi work	4,000
For Amarávati work	2,400
For Seven Pagodas	1,600
Total ...	15,000

the distribution of the establishment charges being made as follows :—

Hampi	3,500
Amarávati	2,100
Seven Pagodas	1,400
Total ...	7,000

3. No detailed estimates have yet been submitted for work at Amarávati. These should be expedited, and should be submitted for sanction through Major Cole. Attention is, however, called to the orders in the Public Department, No. 1151, dated 12th June 1883, in which the views of Government as to work at Amarávati are communicated.

4. Orders have since issued in the Financial Department making a specific appropriation of Rs. 5,000 to include the sum of Rs. 3,000 separately applied † for by Mr. Black.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

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* G.O., No. 1326 W., dated 7th May 1883.

† G.O., No. 2005 W., dated 20th July 1883.

To H. C. Black, Esq.
,, the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
,, Major Cole, R.E.
,, the Financial Department.

[illegible] 3d & 5th [illegible]

Exd. A. F. Goodall.
Spare Copies

GENERAL
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of 1883 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated July, 20th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 20th July 1883, No. 2006 W.

JULY.

Work at Amaravati, Hampi and the Seven Pagodas

Passing orders regarding the distribution of funds for —.

Register 30/7

G.O. 2006 W. of
20/7/83 should be
communicated to
Supdg. Engineers 2, 3rd
& Fifth Circles —
Have copies
signed issued letters
& make necessary
additions to numbers
in orig. and spare
copies.
C.
27/7

27/7

Mr Black. Please see G.O. 1741 W d/21st June/83. The allotments may perhaps meanwhile be accepted? [illegible]

A telegram in this sense is perhaps.

R.S.
27.6

C.A.W.

Very good
27/6 R.H.

C.A.W.

[illegible]

Submission of

[illegible]

Sep 28/6

It was decided to refer to Major Cole again after hearing from [illegible]

2006/11

C.A.W. 2006/8

As requested, I lend up for further disposal, the replies from Mr Black & the Public Dept. to enquiries ordered by W. Cole made in connection with G.O. No 1741 W. of 21 June 1883.

There is nothing in the Public Dept. G.O. of 12 June to show that Mr Black's services will be required at Amraoti.

6/7/83

To W.

Submitted

[illegible]

No 10

Work at Amraoti

90/16/9

Please see the pencil addition to para 3 of the draft. This will, I think, meet the remark of the H. M.

When the Estimates come in, the orders in the Public Dept will be in view.

R.S.
18/7

C A W

very good

R H H
18/7

To 10

Work at Amravati

90 80/9

Please see the pencil addition to para 3 of the draft. This will, I think, meet the remark of the H. M.

When the Estimates come in, the orders in the Public Dept. will be in view.

R. S.
18/7

C. A. W.

Very Good

18/7

P1

825 INDIAN TELEGRAPH 90/20 No. 921

Station Ootacamund Simla

Words. Day. Hour. Minute. Official Instructions.

29/3 28 15.14 Urgent.

To (Person) Col. Sankey. R. E.

From (Person) Major H. H. Cole

With reference my 111 of ninth instant please say whether my proposals are accepted money can then be allotted

Recd. from L. N. At Hrs. Mts. By

Sent to L. N. At Hrs. Mts. By

Date OOTACAMUND 28-6-83 Telegraph Master.

No 1814 E of 29th June 188

2006/11

Telegram to Major Cole, R.E. d/29th June 1883

No

Despatched 29/6

Your proposals accepted subject to local enquiry now being made - result of which will be communicated + Meanwhile funds offered may be allotted

(Sd) R H Sankey
Secy.

83

Seven Pagodas Sadras
30 June 1883

2006/12

No 92

To
The Deputy Chief Engineer
Public Works Department
Madras

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Memorandum 1205 C of 26th June 1883 and in reply would suggest that the cost of Establishment be charged as follows.

Hampi	Rs. 3500
Amaravati	2100
Seven Pagodas	1400
Total Rs	7000

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servt.
F. A. Black
Asst. Engr.

[illegible]

5849

P4

Public Department

2006/14

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following

Proceedings of the Public Works Dept., Dated 26th June 1883 No. 1206, Enquiring whether any decision has been arrived at with regard to the disposal of the Amaravati Marbles.

Order thereon 30th June 1883 No. 1896 Public.

The Public Works Dept. will be furnished with copy of G.O. 12th June 1883 No. 1151 Public.

(True Extract)

Chief Secretary

To The Public Works Department.

[illegible] No. 1151.

S.D.

Govt. of [188 | Madras.

To

The P W Dept

Proceedings, dated 20 June 1883.

No. 1776 W.

Subject.

Forwarding copy of G.O. No 1151 dy 12th June 183 regarding Amaravati Marbles

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12TH JUNE 1883, Nos. 1151, 1152, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From Dr. J. BURGESS, Archæological Surveyor, Western and Southern India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated [illegible], 5th February 1883, No. 13.

I have the honor to inquire when the sculptures that were packed at Amarávati last season may be expected in Madras.

2. It will be remembered that, after the Madras Government had decided to have them removed, the Government of India requested that they should be left at Amarávati until Major Cole could visit the place. This, I believe, he has done some time ago.

3. It was my intention to have completed the materials collected last year by photographs and drawings made from the stones I had packed as soon as they arrived at Madras and to use the whole in the first volume of the Reports of the Madras Archæological Survey, which I might have prepared during next monsoon. The delay that has occurred will necessarily prevent my completing the materials for that volume during the present season. And as the work done during the working season [illegible] to have this present season's work ready for publication before the middle of 1884. And, owing to the very small number of native assistants I have been able to obtain, I am not sure that it will be desirable to publish this season's work by itself. The season is not finished yet however, and I can hardly form [illegible] of what the total outturn of work may yet be.

4. It is, however, most desirable that I should be furnished with full information respecting the Amarávati Marbles, that I may arrange accordingly for the completion of the materials for my report upon them.

No. 293.

Referred to the Collector of Kistna for early report with reference to G.O., 6th November 1882, No. 1325, Miscellaneous.

(Signed) S. S. LAFFAN,
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

16th February 1883.

From Captain H. H. COLE, R.E., Curator of Ancient Monuments in India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, [illegible] December [illegible], No. 711.

I have the honor to submit a memorandum on the present condition of the Amarávati Tope containing suggestions for promoting its security and for conserving what remains of its historical sculptures.

Enclosure.

Memorandum on the present Condition of the Amarávati Tope, dated Masulipatam, the 24th November 1882.

Present condition.

1. I have just returned from a careful inspection of the Buddhist ruins at Amarávati and have had the advantage of conferring with Mr. Horsfall, Collector of the Kistna District, who superintended the excavations ordered by the Duke of Buckingham in 1880. I also met Mr. Mackenzie, the Sub-Collector, [illegible] the Executive Engineer, at Amarávati itself and [illegible] give a description of the present state of the tope and its sculptures, and to offer an opinion on the best means of preserving them.

Previous report on Amarávati.

2. Paragraph 7 of the accompanying report on Amarávati and the panorama sketch attached to it will explain the condition of the tope after the excavations of 1880 had been completed.

Dr. Burgess's recent operations.

3. Since then Dr. Burgess, Archæological Surveyor for Western and Southern India, spent upwards of a month, between December 1881 and January 1882, in examining the tope and in selecting and packing those sculptures which he considered worthy of removal to the Madras Museum. These stones—numbering 175—were carried to the bank of the river Kistna, about half a mile north of Amarávati, where they now are in a fenced enclosure and under the care of a native custodian. It is scarcely necessary to say that the stones comprise the finest sculptures and the most important historical records of the great tope. They appear to me in good condition and undamaged by the recent floods. They have been taken out of their cases to be freed from the straw which enveloped them, and, so far as I was able to judge, the action of the water had beneficially cleaned the carvings.

Number of Sculptures at Amarávati.

4. The number of stone sculptures at Amarávati are as follows:—

(a) Sculptures of Dr. Burgess's selection on the river-bank		175
(b) Sculptures at the Tope—		
In a shed to the north in boxes	6	
Do. do. loose	47	
In situ	193	
		246
Total		421

5. [illegible] the portion of the railing [illegible] which have been in the centre, can be clearly traced. [illegible] to the village of Amarávati is the shed in which are the stones deposited in 1877 by Mr. Sewell (see panoramic sketch and reference in red). His excavations extended [illegible] along the circumference, the remainder of which was excavated by Mr. Horsfall in 1880. Passing round to the west, the stone terrace at the parts marked A is still remaining, although a good deal damaged. At B a portion of the outer railing is in its original position. Further round there is another piece of railing in position (D), and [illegible] the pieces of railing and masonry which still [illegible] the southern entrance (F) may be traced by [illegible] a large slab (G) is erect, and further on is a portion of the [illegible]. Passing round to the east [illegible] outer railing H. Besides these stones, which *indicate part of the outline of the original structure*, there are various smaller fragments and masonry slabs in position to complete the demarcation of the railing and plinth of the tope itself.

Stones at the Site.

6. Of the 246 stones found to be now at the tope, a small proportion go to make up those that remain fixed in position. A good many lie scattered round and about the railings, but the greater number are in the centre of the circle, to which position they were *removed for* Dr. Burgess's operations.

[illegible] of Injury at the Tope.

7. I cannot believe that the shattered condition of the masonry and its carvings can be attributed to the natives of Amarávati, who are mostly Hindus. [illegible] that the grandfather of the present Zemindar is known to have removed brick and stone from the central mound to build his palace and for the purpose of adding to the temple close by, but he would have been simply concerned in getting the material and not in wantonly defacing the sculptures or smashing up the stone blocks. The demolition of the mound as well as the ruin of the surrounding railings and entrances had been effected before we first knew of the tope through Colonel Mackenzie in 1796; I believe that the *real destroyers were the Mahommedans*, who, under the

Iconoclast Alamgir, conquered the district and established themselves in the forts of Kondapilli and Kondavid in the neighbourhood.

Such destruction as Alamgir was wont to deal on all temples of the hated idol-worshippers would have left the sculptures scattered round the tope. The subsequent demolition of the central mound by the Zemindar would have covered them up with layers of earth and debris, to which the subsequent excavation of the tank in the centre (or more probably digging for treasure) would have contributed. I am assured by Mr. Horsfall that the excavations of 1880 overturned no stones from their original places; that the sculptures laid bare were not injured by the process of excavation; and that the central mound had previously [illegible] and no relic or stories were found on its site.

Recent Mischief and Local Custody.

8. Some mischief has, no doubt, been perpetrated by natives using the lime-stone for building into huts, and some wilful chipping of sculptures has occurred, but *I believe that the worse part was caused as stated by the Mahommedans.* In view of the comparatively good condition of the eastern sculptures, [illegible] there is nothing unusual in the climate to cause special deterioration to any of the masonry carvings which Government may care to preserve on the spot. The question of cost [illegible] *substantial wall, an iron gate, and a native custodian to keep the key.* The place is now easily accessible to any idle boy who wishes to pass away his time in hammering off carved surfaces, but it is really surprising to me how little evidence there is of damage of this kind.

Removal of Stones to Madras.

9. Dr. Burgess's intentions were to have removed the 175 stones—now taken half a mile away to the river-bank—and to have deposited them at the Madras Museum. I do not know where they could be placed at the Madras Museum, which is already far too overcrowded, unless they were displayed in the open grounds. *Here, however, they would be subject to the same destructive atmospheric conditions of a tope.* As I have stated in my note on Amarávati of the 11th May [illegible] and if casting is undertaken, casts can be sent to as many Museums in India or Europe as like to pay the cost [illegible]. The removal of the stones from Amarávati has, I submit, but a single argument in its favour, viz., that Amarávati is at present very inaccessible. Looking, however, to the future, are we justified in supposing that Amarávati and the fertile Kistna District will always be 150 miles from a railway? It is increasing in wealth, and is now, with its annual revenue of over forty lakhs of rupees, the third richest district in the whole of Madras. Should Hyderabad be connected as proposed with the East Coast, the line of railway must pass near Amarávati and so make it easily accessible to travellers and savants.

Recommendations for Preservative Remedies.

10. The recommendations I beg leave to submit for the conservation of the Amarávati Tope are as follows:—

(1) The masonry terrace-rails and fragments now in their proper positions and described at paragraph 5 of this note should be [illegible] secured. The existing portions of terrace should be relaid on concrete and in cement. The rails should be supported in their places by a solid foundation of concrete and by using iron bars to prop the uprights and hold them in position.

(2) All the fragmentary sculptures should be collected and placed under a permanent shed in the centre of the circular enclosure.

(3) The bank of earth formed round the tope by the demolition of the mound in past years should be gently sloped off so as to prevent the falling in of earth, such as has occurred during the last rains. This will probably lead to the discovery of more stones; two fresh ones had been partly revealed in the bank and were got out during my visit by Mr. Mackenzie, the Sub-Collector.

(4) A masonry wall seven feet high should be erected round the ruins and have an entrance gate at the north under lock and key.

(5) Near this gate should be a small house for the native custodians.

Disposal of the Sculptures at the River-bank.

11. In regard to the 175 carved stones at the river-bank, I should, if free to do what I thought best, *take them back to the site of the tope* and send casts of them to the Madras and other Museums where Asiatic antiquities are appreciated. *This course I strongly commend to Government. The conservation of the structure will not be promoted by further scattering its component parts*, and I do not see what special benefit will be secured by removing the originals to the Madras Museum as proposed. The Amarávati Tope is the most important and ornate Buddhist Monument known to exist in the Madras Presidency, and this will, I think, be most fittingly acknowledged by having casts of its best sculptures made for Museums in India and in Europe.

Casts.

Repairs.

12. Any attempt to restore the structure—unless it is possible to ascertain with certainty the former position of particular portions—is most undesirable, but the majority of the stones are easily identified as being parts of the railing or plinth, and their retention at the Amarávati

endeavour was [illegible] as to [illegible] preservation even if they were not in their original structural positions and were [illegible] on the ground so as to be easily inspected and examined.

Photographs.

13. It would [illegible] expedient to have all the best Amarávati sculptures photographed, and, if the recommendations in this note are adopted, completion photographs should illustrate the condition of the [illegible] and the beneficial effect of the remedies. It would, however, be necessary to employ a good professional photographer to take the negatives (which should become the property of Government for printing [illegible] permanent process), as amateur work is usually unsatisfactory and not [illegible] purpose of publication.

Special Officer for Repairs.

14. It will be necessary to charge a special officer with the duty of carrying out these suggestions, and the arrangements will, I hope, be undertaken at once. The cost, exclusive of casts and photography, will probably be some Rs. 5,000.

(Signed) H. H. COLE, Captain, R.E.,
Curator of Ancient Monuments in India.

No. 451.

Referred to the Archæological Surveyor of Southern India for an expression of opinion on Captain Cole's recommendations, and more especially on the question of preservation *in situ* as opposed to removal to, and exhibition in, a Museum regarded from the point of view of archæological research.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

27th February 1883.

From J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Masulipatam, 3rd March 1883, No. 375.

In reply to the Order of Government, Public Department, No. 335, of the 20th February 1883, upon Dr. Burgess's letter inquiring when the marbles now packed at Amarávati may be expected in Madras, I have the honor to state that these marbles were not despatched during the current year, pending Captain Cole's inspection and the issue of specific instructions regarding their disposal. Should the Government so order, arrangements can be made for their removal in June or July next after the Kistna has received a sufficient supply of water.

No. 524.

Communicated to the Archæological Surveyor of Southern India for an expression of his views in connection with Captain Cole's letter referred to him by endorsement, No. 451, of 27th ultimo.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

12th March 1883.

From Dr. J. BURGESS, Archæological Surveyor, Western and Southern India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Gujarát, 9th March 1883, No. 24.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your No. 451 of 28th ultimo, with Major Cole's memoranda, dated 11th May and 24th November, relative to the Amarávati Tope, and requesting my opinion thereon.

2. [illegible] of the report I may notice two points: *First.*—Major Cole has so emphasised his theory that "the real destroyers" of the Amarávati Stupa were the Muhammadans that it may be as well to observe that all the evidence is against him. When Colonel Mackenzie first unearthed the many slabs marked on his plan (which Major Cole has reproduced in the papers under consideration), the human figures were nowhere defaced in the way Muhammadans universally treat such imagery, nor is there a particle of evidence to show that the rails had not been covered over by debris centuries before the birth of "the Iconoclast Alamgir." Again, of the stones excavated and left on the spot by Colonel Mackenzie, we know from the testimony of his own drawings and of Sir Walter Elliot that all had disappeared between 1819 and 1848. We find others built into Hindu temples and wells that were constructed between the time of the destruction of the Central Stupa by the old Hindu Zemindar in the latter half of last century and that of the first visit of Colonel Mackenzie. All this and other evidence that I need not here adduce goes to show that Major Cole is quite mistaken in his belief that "the ruin" was caused by the Muhammadans.

2886
520

3. *Secondly*, in paragraph 14 (page 4) of his report, Major Cole seems to make out that I advocate different policies in Bombay and in Madras with respect to the preservation of remains *in situ*. Nothing could be more erroneous; the best reply to such a charge will be found in my correspondence with the Madras Government with reference to the Govindapuram Fort and the Udayagiri temple.

4. As to the main question, I remark that Major Cole (in paragraph 12 of his memorandum of 24th November) grants that any attempt at restoration of any portion of the Amarávati Tope is impracticable, and, though (in paragraph 11) he speaks of "the conservation of *the structure*," he admits that there is no *structure* to conserve. On his own showing, therefore, the remains do not come within the scope of his duties any more than the stupas at Sopárá or at Bhárhut, or any of the remains excavated by General Cunningham, or even my present excavations here. Such remains are entirely archæological in character and are best left to the disposal of the Government and the Superintendent of the Archæological Survey of the Presidency to which they belong. If General Cunningham may arrange what is to be done at Bhárhut or elsewhere without reference to Major Cole, it may be left also to the Madras Government and myself to arrange what is best to be done at Amarávati. This view I believe would be fully supported by the Government of India. But, if Major Cole is allowed to interfere in this instance, it may afterwards be used as a precedent for his interference with General Cunningham's work as well as mine, and, considering the personal animus he has already manifested, this might lead to further difficulties.

5. On the simple ground alone of the remains being purely archæological in character, Government need have no difficulty in deciding to carry out the operations begun last year under my recommendation. Of their propriety I believe every one at all acquainted with the circumstances—such as the Collector, Mr. J. Horsfall; the Sub-Collector, Mr. G. Mackenzie; the Engineer, Mr. Grant; the former First Assistant Collector, Mr. R. Sewell—will agree without hesitation with me. And, if scientific opinion is required, the Government might ask General Cunningham's.

6. As to Major Cole's proposal to lift the fragments of the old terrace and relay the slabs "on concrete and in cement," I cannot refrain from entering a very strong protest against such a course. It would destroy the only portion of the original still left as the builders laid it down. Moreover Major Cole is not aware that the construction of this terrace reveals a curious chapter in the history of the stupa, and all antiquarians would have cause to regret his ill-considered interference with it.

7. Major Cole's proposed masonry wall seven feet high round the site might, I fear be only a temptation to Telugu boys—natives of a hilly country—to climb over it. I have already informed Government that I intend revisiting and making further excavations at Amarávati, and perhaps this wall might be delayed at least till I have done so.

8. For the preservation, as far as possible, of the slabs left on the site and not *in situ*, I would approve of the suggestion to erect a shed over them in the centre of the area and to protect the place by means of a guardian.

9. A whole year has already been unnecessarily lost, and I would now respectfully submit the following for the approval of Government:—

(1) That Government should carry out the arrangements previously sanctioned and have the stones packed removed to Madras as soon as the river and canals will permit. The slabs to be removed include those on the river bank, eight in the small shed near the site, and those from Jaggayyapet now at Bezváda.

(2) The stones should only be unpacked at Madras under my own supervision or orders, as it is my intention to photograph them to scale, and this can best be done, and with least risk of injury, as each is opened out.

(3) If, as Major Cole hints, the whole of the slabs to be removed cannot be properly exhibited in the Madras Museum, some of them may be placed in the Government School of Arts, where a few good specimens would be found most useful as models. But, if the Museum is to serve its purpose as an educational agency, separate provision will have to be made for the natural products and the antiquarian collection, where there need be no want of space for these slabs.

(4) If Major Cole can induce other Governments to pay the expense of casts for their Museums, these might be made under the supervision of the Superintendent of the Madras School of Arts. They could be made very much cheaper at Madras than at Amarâvatî, and the possession of the originals will save the Madras Government the expense of casts for their Museum.

10. T[illegible] that these suggestions will [illegible]

Letter—to Major-General A. CUNNINGHAM, R.E., C.S.I., C.I.E., Director-General of the Archæological Survey of India, dated Fort St. George, 22nd March 1883, Mis. No. 642, Public.

From Captain H. H. Cole, dated 2nd December 1882, No. 711, with attached memorandum.
From Dr. J. Burgess, dated 9th March 1883, No. 24.
Memorandum by Captain Cole on the present condition of the Amarâvatî Tope, dated April 1883.

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you the papers marginally noted, and to request the favor of an expression of your opinion on the questions at issue between Captain Cole, R.E., and Dr. Burgess in respect of the Amarâvatî marbles.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

From R. SEWELL, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, Chingleput, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Chingleput, 20th April 1883, No. 2.

I have the honor to address Government with reference to the preservation of the marbles at Amarâvati in the Kistna District.

2. These were mostly excavated more than three years ago under orders of His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. Those that I excavated have been lying exposed even longer, viz., since May 1877, or for the last six years. About a year ago Dr. Burgess packed some of the more beautiful specimens for transmission to the Madras Museum, and they were removed to the river bank. They lay there till November waiting for Captain Cole's promised inspection, and meanwhile were exposed to great danger owing to a heavy fresh in the river which swept completely over the cases. Happily no appreciable damage was done according to Captain Cole's report. [illegible] on the other hand are almost [illegible] subject to deterioration by their exposure to the fierce heat of the sun in the present season and the heavy tropical rains of the monsoon. As each year passes by and nothing is done to save them, the process of destruction is steadily going on, and, if this treatment is continued, all the rare beauty of the lately-excavated marbles will be lost by their becoming weather-worn like *all* the rest previously excavated. I would, therefore, very earnestly entreat Government to take some immediate steps to save them. Their value is incalculable. They are not only beautiful objects and relics of rare artistic workmanship, but they constitute almost the only [illegible] record in the whole of India whereby we can learn the manners, customs, costumes, and religious habits of the inhabitants of this country in the early centuries A.D.

3. Captain Cole has reported to the Government of India his desire that the marbles should remain where they are. Dr. Burgess desires to have them removed to the safe custody of the Museum at Madras. May I respectfully request that Government will hasten to apply to the Government of India for definite instructions as to the disposal of the marbles, and have their destination settled and the sculptures safely housed before the next monsoon sweeps over them.

4. If this has already been done, I must apologize for troubling you.

From Major-General A. CUNNINGHAM, Director-General, Archæological Survey, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Simla, 30th May 1883, No. 24.

In reply to your letter, No. 642, dated 22nd March 1883, with its enclosures, asking for my opinion about the disposal of the sculptures taken from the Amarâvati Stupa, I have the honor to state as follows:—

There is so little now remaining on the side of the Amarâvati Stupa that I do not think it is worth while to attempt any kind of restoration. I am a strong advocate [illegible] ration of such as can be restored. When I suggested in 1853 that the gateways of the Sânchi Stupa might, with advantage, be removed to the British Museum, my sole object was their preservation, as I was but too well aware of the danger to which they were exposed if left much longer neglected. But, since Major Cole obtained his present appointment, I have been a staunch advocate for the complete restoration of the Sânchi Stupa.

As so many of the sculptured stones have already been removed from Amarâvati, I agree with Dr. Burgess in thinking that the best thing that can now be done is to place them under cover in the Madras Museum. There they will be both safe and accessible. There also a certain number of the pillars might be set up with their rail-bars and copings complete, sufficient to show what the building actually was in its original state.

The sculptures now lying at Amarâvati might be collected together, as suggested by Major Cole, in the centre of the circle of ruins, under a suitable shed, and placed under the charge of a chokidar. Photographs should be taken of all the finer and more interesting specimens both at Amarâvati and at Madras. If casts are to be taken, they could be, as Dr. Burgess remarks, much more cheaply made at Madras than at Amarâvati.

Order—dated 12th June 1883, No. 1151, Public.

The Government approve of the proposals contained in paragraph 9 of the Archæological Surveyor's letter of 9th March last. The Collector of the Kistna and the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, will be guided accordingly.

(True Extract.)

C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Archæological Surveyor, Western and Southern India.
„ Curator of Ancient Monuments in India.
„ Collector of Kistna.
„ R. Sewell, Esq.
„ Superintendent, Government Central Museum.
Copy to the Director-General, Archæological Survey of India.

Endorsement—dated 12th June 1883, No. 1152, Public.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department, with reference to letter hence, No. 1001, Miscellaneous, dated 17th May 1883.

C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. W. Fischer

Govt. of [1883] Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. Recd.

G.O., &c., 12th Jun[illegible]
Nos. 1151, 11[illegible]

JUNE.

Amaravati Marbles.

Approving of the proposals made by Dr. Burgess, Archæological Surveyor for Western and Southern India, regarding the removal of the — to the Government Central Museum, Madras. Copy to the Government of India.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following papers :—

From Dr. J. BURGESS, Archæological Surveyor, Western and Southern India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Rámesvaram, 9th February 1883, No. 13.

I have the honor to inquire when the sculptures that were packed at Amarávati last season may be expected in Madras.

2. It will be remembered that, after the Madras Government had decided to have them removed, the Government of India requested that they should be left at Amarávati until Major Cole could visit the place. This, I believe, he has done some time ago.

3. It was my intention to have completed the materials collected last year by photographs and drawings made from the stones I had packed as soon as they arrived at Madras and to use the whole in the first volume of the Reports of the Madras Archæological Survey, which I might have prepared during next monsoon. The delay that has occurred will necessar[illegible] completing the materials for this volume during the present season. [illegible]rk done during one working season has all to be inked in and finished d[illegible]ing monsoon, it will be impossible to have this present season's work re[illegible]cation before the middle of 1884. And, owing to the very small number [illegible]sistants I have been able to obtain, I am not sure that it will be desirable [illegible] this season's work by itself. The season is not finished yet however, and I can hardly form a correct estimate of what the total outturn of work may yet be.

4. It is, however, most desirable that I should be furnished with full information respecting the Amarávati Marbles, that I may arrange accordingly for the completion of the materials for my report upon them.

No. 395.

Referred to the Collector of Kistna for early report with reference to G.O., 6th November 1882, No. 1325, Miscellaneous.

(Signed) E. S. LAFFAN,
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

16th February 1883.

From Captain H. H. COLE, R.E., Curator of Ancient Monuments in India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 2nd December 1882, No. 711.

I have the honor to submit a memorandum on the present condition of the Amarávati Tope containing suggestions for promoting its security and for conserving what remains of its historical sculptures.

Enclosure.

Memorandum on the Present Condition of the Amarávati Tope, dated Masulipatam, the 24th November 1882.

Visit to Amarávati.

1. I have just returned from a careful inspection of the Buddhist ruins at Amarávati, and have had the advantage of conferring with Mr. Horsfall, Collector of the Kistna District, who superintended the excavations ordered by the Duke of Buckingham in 1880. I also met Mr. Mackenzie, the Sub-Collector, and Mr. Grant, the Executive Engineer, at Amarávati itself, and am now able to give a description of the remains of the tope and its sculptures, and to offer an opinion on the best means of preserving them.

Previous report on Amarávati.

2. Paragraph 7 of the accompanying report on Amarávati and the panoramic sketch attached to it will explain the condition of the tope after the excavations of 1880 had been completed.

Dr. Burgess's work at Amarávati.

3. Since then Dr. Burgess, Archæological Surveyor for Western and Southern India, spent upwards of a month, between December 1881 and January 1882, in examining the tope and in selecting and packing those sculptures which he considered worthy of removal to the Madras Museum. These stones—numbering 175—were carried to the bank of the river Kistna, about half a mile north of Amarávati, where they now lie in a fenced enclosure and under the care of a native custodian. It is scarcely necessary to say that the stones comprise the finest sculptures and the most important historical records of the great tope. They appear to me in good condition and undamaged by the recent floods. They had been taken out of their cases to be freed from the straw which enveloped them, and, as far as I was able to judge, the action of the water had beneficially cleaned the carvings.

Number of Sculptures at Amarávati.

4. The number of stone sculptures at Amarávati are as follows:—

(a) Sculptures of Dr. Burgess's selection on the river-bank	...		175
(b) Sculptures at the Tope—			
In a shed to the north, in boxes	...	8	
Do. do. loose	...	43	
Inside	...	195	
			246
Total	...		421

Of those that are *in situ*, *i.e.*, on the circular area covered by the tope and railings, there are several that are undoubtedly in their original places, and from these the position of the railing and that of the mound, which must have been in the centre, can be clearly traced.

Present State of the Ruins.

5. At the northern entrance nearest to the village of Amarávati is the shed in which are the stones deposited in 1877 by Mr. Sewell (see panoramic sketch and references in red). His excavations extended from K to L along the circumference, the remainder of which was excavated by Mr. Horsfall in 1880. Passing round to the west, the stone terrace at the parts marked A is still remaining, although a good deal damaged. At B a portion of the outer railing is in its original position. Further round there is another piece of railing in position (D), and the southern entrance (F) may be traced by the pieces of railing and masonry which still remain. Passing round to the east a large slab (G) is erect, and further on is a portion of the outer railing H. Besides these stones, which *indicate part of the outline of the original structure*, there are various smaller fragments and masonry slabs in position to complete the demarcation of the railing and plinth of the tope itself.

Stones at the Site.

6. Of the 246 stones recorded as being now at the tope a small proportion go to make up those that remain fixed in position. A good many lie scattered round and about the railings, but the greater number are in the centre of the circle, to which position they were removed for Dr. Burgess's operations.

Original Cause of the Ruin of the Tope.

7. I cannot believe that the shattered condition of the masonry and its carvings can be attributed to the natives of Amarávati, who are mostly Hindus. It is true that the grandfather of the present Zemindar is known to have removed brick and stone from the central mound to build his palace and for the purpose of adding to the temple close to it, but he would have been simply concerned in getting the material and *not in wantonly defacing* the sculptures or smashing up the stone blocks. The demolition of the mound as well as the ruin of the surrounding railings and entrances had been effected before we first knew of the tope through Colonel Mackenzie in 1816; I believe that *the real destroyers were the Muhammadans*, who, under the

Iconoclast Alamgir, conquered the district and established themselves in the forts of Kondapilly and Kondavid in the neighbourhood.

Such destruction as Alamgir was wont to deal on all temples of the hated idol-worshippers would have left the sculptures scattered round the tope. The subsequent demolition of the central mound by the Zemindar would have covered them up with layers of earth and debris, to which the subsequent excavation of the tank in the centre (or more probably digging for treasure) would have contributed. I am assured by Mr. Horsfall that the excavation of 1880 overturned no stones from their original places; that the sculptures laid bare were not injured by the process of excavation; and that the central mound had previously disappeared, and no relic or stones were found on its site.

Recent Mischief and Loose Custody.

8. Some mischief has, no doubt, been perpetrated by natives using the lime-stone for burning into lime, and some wilful chipping of sculptures has occurred, *but I believe that the great ruin was caused as stated by the Muhammadans*. Looking to the comparatively *good condition of the entrance sculptures, which are over 1,500 years old*, there is nothing unusual in the climate to cause special deterioration to any of the masonry carvings which Government may seek to preserve on the spot. *The question of their custody is easily disposed of by the provision of a substantial wall, an iron gate, and a native custodian to keep the key.* The place is now easily accessible to any idle boy who wishes to pass away his time in hammering off carved surfaces, but it is really surprising to me how little evidence there is of damage of this kind.

Removal to Madras Museum.

9. Dr. Burgess's intentions were to have removed the 175 stones—now taken half a mile away to the river-bank—and to have deposited them at the Madras Museum. I do not know where they could be placed at the Madras Museum, which is already far too overcrowded, unless they were displaced in the open grounds. *Here, however, they would be subject to the more destructive atmospheric conditions of a town.* As I have stated in my note on Amarávati of the 11th May, *casts are as good as originals for all scientific purposes*; and, if casting is undertaken, copies can be sent to as many Museums in India or Europe as like to pay the cost of a set. The removal of the stones from Amarávati has, I submit, but a single argument in its favor, viz., that Amarávati is at present very inaccessible. Looking, however, to the future, are we justified in supposing that Amarávati and the fertile Kistna District will always be 150 miles from a *railway*? It is increasing in wealth, and is now, with its annual revenue of over forty lakhs of rupees, the third richest district in the whole of Madras. Should Haiderabad be connected as proposed with the East Coast, the line of railway must pass near Amarávati and so make it easily accessible to travellers and savants.

Recommendations for Preservative Remedies.

10. The recommendations I have to submit for the conservation of the Amarávati Tope are as follows:—

(1) The masonry terrace-rails and fragments now in their proper positions and described at paragraph 5 of this note should be rendered secure. The existing portions of terrace should be relaid on concrete and in cement. The rails should be supported in their places by a solid foundation of concrete and by using iron bars to prop the uprights and hold them in position.

(2) All the fragmentary sculptures should be collected and placed under a permanent shed in the centre of the circular enclosure.

(3) The bank of earth formed round the tope by the demolition of the mound in past years should be gently sloped off so as to prevent the falling in of earth, such as has occurred during the last rains. This will probably lead to the discovery of more stones; two fresh ones had been partly revealed in the bank and were got out during my visit by Mr. Mackenzie, the Sub-Collector.

(4) A masonry wall seven feet high should be erected round the ruins and have an entrance gate at the north under lock and key.

(5) Near this gate should be a small house for the native custodian.

Disposal of the Sculptures at the River-bank.

11. In regard to the 175 carved stones at the river-bank, I should, if free to do what I thought best, *take them back to the site of the tope* and send casts of them to the Madras and other Museums where Asiatic antiquities are appreciated. *This course I strongly commend to Government. The conservation of the structure will not be promoted by still further scattering its component parts*; and I do not see what special benefit will be secured by removing the originals to the Madras Museum as proposed. The Amarávati Tope is the most important and ornate Buddhist Monument known to exist in the Madras Presidency, and this will, I think, be most fittingly acknowledged by having casts of its best sculptures made for Museums in India and in Europe.

Casts.

Repairs.

12. Any attempt to restore the structure—unless it is possible to ascertain with certainty the former position of particular portions—is most undesirable, but the majority of the stones are easily identified as being parts of the railing or plinth, and their retention at the Amarávati

sculptures would be an in situ preservation even if they were not in their original structural positions and were merely placed on the ground so as to be easily inspected and examined.

Photographs.

13. It would be expedient to have all the best Amarávati sculptures photographed, and, if the recommendations in this note are adopted, completion photographs should illustrate the condition of the tope and the [illegible] effect of the remedies. It would, however, be necessary to employ a good professional photographer to take the negatives (which should become the property of Government for printing by a permanent process), as amateur work is usually unsatisfactory and not worth using for purposes of publication.

Special Officer for Repairs.

14. It will be necessary to charge a special officer with the duty of carrying out these suggestions, and the arrangements will, I hope, be undertaken at once. The cost, exclusive of maps and photography, will probably be some Rs. [illegible].

(Signed) H. H. COLE, Captain, R.E.,
Curator of Ancient Monuments in India.

No. 451.

Referred to the Archæological Surveyor of Southern India for an expression of opinion on Captain Cole's recommendations, and more especially on the question of preservation *in situ* as opposed to removal to, and exhibition in, a Museum regarded from the point of view of archæological research.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

27th February 1883.

From J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Masulipatam, 3rd March 1883, No. 575.

In reply to the Order of Government, Public Department, No. 396, of the 20th February 1883, upon Dr. Burgess's letter inquiring when the marbles now packed at Amarávati may be expected in Madras, I have the honor to state that these marbles were not despatched during the current year, pending Captain Cole's inspection and the issue of specific instructions regarding their disposal. Should the Government so desire, arrangements can be made for their removal in June or July next after the Kistna has received a sufficient supply of water.

No. 524.

Communicated to the Archæological Surveyor of Southern India for an expression of his views in connection with Captain Cole's letter referred to him by endorsement, No. 451, of 27th ultimo.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

12th March 1883.

From Dr. J. BURGESS, Archæological Surveyor, Western and Southern India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Gujarát, 9th March 1883, No. 24.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your No. 451 of 28th ultimo, with Major Cole's memoranda, dated 11th May and 24th November, relative to the Amarávati Tope, and requesting my opinion thereon.

2. Before adverting to the main purport of the papers, I may notice two points:

First.—Major Cole has so emphasized his theory that "*the real destroyers*" of the Amarávati Stupa were the Muhammadans that it may be as well to observe that all the evidence is against him. When Colonel Mackenzie first unearthed the many slabs marked on his plan (which Major Cole has reproduced in the papers under consideration), the human figures were nowhere defaced in the way Muhammadans universally treat such imagery; nor is there a particle of evidence to show that the rails had not been covered over by debris centuries before the birth of "the Iconoclast Alamgir." Again, of the stones excavated and left on the spot by Colonel Mackenzie, we know from the testimony of his own drawings and of Sir Walter Elliot that all had disappeared between 1819 and 1848. We find others built into Hindu temples and wells that were constructed between the time of the destruction of the Central Stupa by the old Hindu Zemindar in the latter half of last century and that of the first visit of Colonel Mackenzie. All this and other evidence that I need not here adduce goes to show that Major Cole is quite mistaken in his belief that "*the prime ruin*" was caused by the Muhammadans.

3. *Secondly*, in paragraph 14 (page 4) of his report, Major Cole tries to make out that I advocate different policies in Bombay and in Madras Presidencies with respect to the preservation of remains *in situ*. Nothing could be more inaccurate; the best reply to such a charge will be found in my correspondence with the Madras Government with reference to the Govindapuram Fort and the Udayagiri temple.

4. As to the main question, I remark that Major Cole (in par[illegible] memorandum of 24th November) grants that any attempt at restoratio[illegible] of the Amarávati Stupa is impracticable, and, though (in paragraph [illegible]) "the conservation of *the structure*," he admits that there is no struct[illegible] On his own showing, therefore, the remains do not come within th[illegible] any more than the stupas at Sopárá or at Bharhut, or any of the remains excavated by General Cunningham, or even my present excavations here. Such remains are entirely archæological in character and are best left to the disposal of the Government and the Superintendent of the Archæological Survey of the Presidency to which they belong. If General Cunningham may arrange what is to be done at Bharhut or elsewhere without reference to Major Cole, it may be left also to the Madras Government and myself to arrange what is best to be done at Amarávati. This view I believe would be fully supported by the Government of India. But, if Major Cole is allowed to interfere in this instance, it may afterwards be used as a precedent for his interference with General Cunningham's work as well as mine, and, considering the personal animus he has already manifested, this might lead to further difficulties.

5. On the simple ground alone of the remains being purely archæological in character, Government need have no difficulty in deciding to carry out the [illegible] begun last year under my recommendation. Of their propriety I believe [illegible] Collector, Mr. G. Mackenzie; the Engineer, Mr. Grant; the former [illegible] Collector, Mr. R. Sewell—will agree without hesitation with me. And, [illegible] opinion is required, the Government might ask General Cunningham's.

6. As to Major Cole's proposal to lift the fragments of the old terrace and relay the slabs "on concrete and in cement," I cannot refrain from entering a very strong protest against such a course. It would destroy the only portion of the original still left as the builders laid it down. Moreover Major Cole is not aware that the construction of this terrace reveals a curious chapter in the history of the stupa, and all antiquarians would have cause to regret his ill-considered interference with it.

7. Major Cole's proposed masonry wall seven feet high round the site might, I fear be only a temptation to Telugu boys—natives of a hilly country—to climb over it. I have already informed Government that I intend revisiting and making further excavations at Amarávati, and perhaps this wall might be delayed at least till I have done so.

8. For the preservation, as far as possible, of the slabs left on the site and not *in situ*, I would approve of the suggestion to erect a shed over them in the centre of the area and to protect the place by means of a guardian.

9. A whole year has already been unnecessarily lost, and I would now respectfully submit the following for the approval of Government:—

(1) That Government should carry out the arrangements previously sanctioned and have the stones packed removed to Madras as soon as the river and canals will permit. The slabs to be removed include those on the river bank, eight in the small shed near the site, and those from Jaggayyapet now at Bezváda.

(2) The stones should only be unpacked at Madras under my own supervision or orders, as it is my intention to photograph them to scale, and this can best be done, and with least risk of injury, as each is opened out.

of the Government of India for conservation of monuments generally - this, with the Rs 5000 promised by the Local Government, will admit of an expenditure of Rs 15,000 in the current official year, which it is proposed to distribute as follows —

	Rs
Mr Black's salary, Estab^t &c	7,000
For Hampi work	4,000
" Amravati work	2,400
" Seven Pagodas	1,600
Total Rs	15,000

* the distribution of the Establishment charge being made as follows:

	Rs
Hampi	3,500
Amravati	2,100
Seven Pagodas	1,400
Total Rs	7,000

* G.O. No. [illegible] W of 9th May 1883.

N° 32

3. No detailed estimates have yet been submitted for work at Amravati and the Seven Pagodas. These should be expedited, and should be submitted for sanction through Major Cole. *

4. Orders ~~will~~ have been issued in the Financial Dept ~~for the~~ making specific appropriation of Rs 5000 to include the sum of Rs 3,000 separately applied for by Mr Black.

Attention is however * called to the orders in the Public Dept No. 1151 d/12th June 1883 in which the views of Govt as to work at Amravati are communicated.

RHM

* G.O. No. 2005 W d/20th ~~Feb~~ 7/83.

([illegible])

RHM

11/7/83

9th 10/7

H. C. Black Esqr }
Examiner Pr. Accts
Major Cole R.E. }
Financial Dept

(The Chief Secretary for countersignature)

JH 12/7

[illegible]

2006/25

Cur 13/7 R 18/7

PUBLIC WORKS

Urgent

Work at Amravati, [illegible] the river Pagodas

Passing of orders regarding the distribution of fund.