G. O. No 2006 W 20. 7. 83
No 426 E. 4. 8. 8[illegible]
Public G. O. 843 28. 4. [illegible]
Do Do 1525 8. 7. 84
Public W. G. O. 2059 W 21. 8. 84

Ootacamund, 20th Augt/84

No. 1874.

Transferred to the Public Works Dept for the issue of the necessary orders. –

(By order,)
[illegible]
Ag Asstt. Secy.

18. 8. 84

No 2202 W a/6th Sept/84

Recorded, with reference to G. O. No 2059 W d/ 21st August 1884.

29. 8. 84

1. 9. 84

Cons. Archt with Encl:
Finl Depts with Copy of G.O. 2059 W

29. 8. 84   29. 8. 84

Public
Financial (188) DEPARTMENT.

From
THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL,
Madras,

To
THE Chief Secretary to Government Financial Dept.

No. ID/575

Dated 13th } August 1884.
Received Aug 23

No.
No 2202 W a/6 9-84

Subject.

Requests that the P. W. Department may be moved to issue the necessary instructions to enable the Examr. P. W. Accts to admit the charges referred to in his Books.

With orders

R No 1450

Through the Consulting Architect to Government, Chepauk

No 739

Government Central Museum
Egmore
Madras 28th July 1884

From

Brigade Surgeon George Bidie M.B. C.B.C.E.
Superintendent Government
Central Museum

To

The Accountant General
Fort St George

Sir,

With reference to accompanying copy of letter from Consulting Architect to Government I have the honor to request that the necessary transfer of funds may be effected to the credit of Major Marant R.E.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant,

Bidie Brigade Surgeon
Superintendent Government
Central Museum.

No 1980

ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
30 JUL 84
MADRAS

P.W.D.

Consulting Architect's Office
Chepauk, Madras
23rd July 1884.

No 659

From

The Consulting Architect
to the Government of Madras,

To

The Superintendent
Government Central Museum

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No 711 dated 22nd July 1884 together with its enclosure and beg in reply to enquire if I am to understand that funds are placed at my disposal for carrying out the work. If it be so I should be glad by your arranging to place the funds at the disposal of the Public Works Department so that the outlay on the work may be accounted for in the Public Works Department as usual.

2/ The work will be put in hand at once.

I have &c

Signed/ J. L. L. Morant
Major R.E.
Offg. Consg. Archt to Govt.

True

Endorsement No 459
Dated 29 July 1884

Forwarded in original to the Accountant-General Madras with a request that the necessary funds may be placed at the disposal of this department through the Gov't in the P. W. D.

J. L. L. Morant.

Major R.E.
Offg. Consg. Archt. to Govt.

Pub 2064/3/84

(True copy)

Dallas Brigade Surgeon
Superintendent Government
Central Museum.

For 3/7056/82

Pub 2869/2/884

Resource Department.

Fort St. George,
Accountant-General's Office,
13th August 1884.

No. 2D/575.

From W. F. Elgostown Esqr
ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To THE Chief Secretary to Government,
Financial Department

SIR,

With reference to Proceedings of Government in the Public Department No. 1525 dated the 8th July 1884 and the Endorsement of the Consulting Architect to Government and the accompanying letter of the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, I have the honor to request that the Public Works Department may be moved to issue the necessary instructions in that Department, to enable the Examiner of Public Works Accounts to admit the charge in his Books.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt Servt

W Elgostown
Accountt General

AB

G.O. No 2006 W 20.7.83
No 4262. 4. 8. 84
Public G.O. 843 28.4.84
Do Do 1525 8.7.84
Public W G.O. 2059 W 21.8.84

Ootacamund, 20th Augt/84

No. 1874

Transferred to the Public Works Dept for the issue of the necessary orders. –

(By order,)
[illegible]
Ag Asst. Secy.

18.8.84

No. 2202 W a/6th Septr/84

Recorded, with reference to G.O. No. 2059 W d/ 21st August 1884.

27.8.84

1.9.84

Cons. Archt with Encl:
Finl Depts with Copy of G.O. 2059 W

Financial (188) Department.

No. 7050

From

The ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL,

Madras,

To

The Chief Secretary to Government Financial Dept.

No. 18/575

Dated 13th } August 1884.
Received

No.

No. 2202 W a/6 9.84

Subject.

Requests that the P.W. Department may be moved to issue the necessary instructions to enable the Examr. P.W. Accts to admit the charges referred to in his Books.

Write order

Govt. of {1834} Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 8th July 1884, No. 1525.

Not Cons. to P.W.D.

JULY.

Archæology.

Approving the proposals of the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum on the erection in one of the halls of the museum of the sculptured slabs from Amarávati, and sanctioning the amount of the estimate of Rs. 1,200 for the purpose.

G.O. No 2006 W 20.7.83
No 4268 4.8.84
Public G.O. 843 28.4.84
Do Do 1525 8.7.84
Public W G.O. 2059 W 21.8.84

Ootacamund, 20th Augt/84

No. 1874

Transferred to the Public Works Deptt for the issue of the necessary orders.—

(By order,)
[illegible]
Ag. Asstt. Secy.

18.8.84

No 2202 W a/6th Septr/84

Recorded, with reference to G.O. No 2059 W dt 21st August 1884.

29.8.84

1.9.84

Consg Archt with Encl:
Finl Deptt with copy of G.O. 2059 W.

[illegible] 29.8.84 29.8.84

Public
Financial (188) Department.

From

The Accountant-General,
Madras,

To

The Chief Secretary to Government Financial Dept.

No. 18/575

Dated 13th } August 1884.
Received 23 } Enc. 3

No.

No 2202 W a/6-9-84

Subject.

Requests that the P.W. Department may be moved to issue the necessary instructions to enable the Examr. P.W. Accts to admit the charge referred to in his Books.

Wrt to order

8th July 1884, No. 1525, Public.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

From Brigade-Surgeon G. BIDIE, M.B., C.I.E., Superintendent, Government Central Museum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 25th June 1884, No. 620.

In obedience to G.O., Public department, No. 843, of 28th April 1884, I have the honor to submit, for the orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, the following remarks on the erection in one of the halls of the museum of the sculptured slabs which have been brought from Amarávati.

2. So far as can be judged from specimens which have been exposed in the museum for a quarter of a century, the air of Madras has no appreciable prejudicial effect on the denser sort of marble on which most of the Amarávati sculptures are executed. It is the carbonised air *plus* moisture that is so destructive to many marbles in cities, like London. Fortunately we have no smoke nuisance or noxious chemical vapours in Madras; and as regards the salt air the museum is quite two miles from the sea, and the wind before it reaches Egmore is filtered through masses of foliage. In the museum compound too some very delicate ferns, which are most sensitive as regards saline air, grow in an open shed in the most luxuriant manner. As a matter of fact the air in the neighbourhood of the museum is very pure.

3. The bleaching and decay of the surface of the marble, alluded to in paragraph 4 of Dr. Burgess' letter, are I think not as a rule due to simple *weathering*, or to contact with sea air, but to the destructive action of earth, moisture and air when the stones were buried in the ruins at Amarávati. The damage done is not at first very apparent as the stones contain a good deal of moisture when freshly exhumed, but as the water evaporates the marble in a few weeks or months assumes the dead white color referred to by Dr. Burgess.

4. When the stones are placed under cover in a dry room I do not anticipate that this disintegration will advance. As already stated it is the combined action of coal-smoke and rain that is so destructive to limestones and marbles, and this combination fortunately does not exist here.

5. Some of the marbles have suffered a good deal also from apparently genuine, simple *weathering*, that is the action of air and rain, and this is hardly to be wondered at considering the nature of the stone and the great number of years that it has been exposed. I feel pretty confident, however, that the destructive process will not advance when the stones are housed in a dry room; but if it does then the stones may be protected with glass or with some preservative application.

6. It will be recollected that in G.O., Public department, No. 624-A, of 26th July 1882, sanction was given for my setting up in a stone frame-work a very fine specimen of sculpture from Amarávati. From one cause or other the frame was not delivered, till shortly before the departure of the Consulting Architect to England on leave. I then pointed out that it was too massive and would crush the marble, and refused to accept it. There the matter rested till the arrival of the new Superintendent of the School of Arts, when I asked him to design and make a wooden frame that would harmonise with the sculpture. This he was good enough to do, but on submitting the bill to the Accountant-General he refused to pass it, owing to the lapse of time. The original grant for the work was Rs. 310, but the cost of the wooden frame is only Rs. 150; so I trust that early sanction will be given for the disbursement. This frame will admit of glass being put in if found necessary.

7. With reference to paragraph 1 of G.O., Public department, No. 843, of 28th April 1884, as I did not feel confident that I could give a reliable opinion regarding the cost of housing the marbles, I took the liberty of asking the assistance of Major Morant, R.E., Acting Consulting Architect, who very kindly furnished me with the enclosed letter and estimate, which are submitted for the orders of Government.

8. I quite approve of the manner in which Major Morant proposes to move the marbles, and do not think that the work could be entrusted to any one more competent to carry it out with taste and care. The only suggestion I would add to those made by him is that in raising the sculptures from the backyard with a crane so as to get them inside, the stones be hoisted in the truck as in many cases they are so brittle that their own weight might break them. The amount of Major Morant's estimate is Rs. 1,200, and I believe that this will suffice. I trust therefore that early sanction may be given for the execution of the work.

ENCLOSURE.

From Major J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., Officiating Consulting Architect to Government, to the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum, dated Chepauk, 19th June 1884, No. 456.

In reply to your letter, No. 485, dated 19th May 1884, I have the honor to report that I would advocate the marbles being moved in a truck on rails to a window at the back of the museum. A crane could there hoist them into the room in which you propose placing them. After reaching that room they would have to be conveyed to the parts of the room where they are to be fixed. To effect this another truck running on rails or on planks (which would be shifted as needed) might be used, or the stones might simply be dragged along the floor in a truck, or they might be very slowly moved by means of hydraulic jacks, or perhaps a combination of all these methods might be necessary. When close to the position which each stone is intended to occupy it could be erected either against the wall or in the room as might be thought desirable, according to the nature of the stone and so on.

2. The stones where cracked or chipped can be repaired with cement in such a way as to very closely imitate the marble.

3. I enclose an estimate of the probable cost of effecting these proposals. The work being of a novel kind the estimate, though carefully prepared, is necessarily approximate. Very great care will be needed in carrying out the work, and the services of a European subordinate will be requisite, as natives cannot be relied on in a matter of this nature. I can (no doubt) obtain from my own department all the aid I require.

4. I have not considered in detail the enclosing of any of the slabs in air-tight glazed cases. This can be determined after the stones are in the building, and can, if considered necessary, be done by degrees. The positions which the stones will occupy in the room is a matter that can be easily decided by and by. The room indicated in Dr. Burgess' letter would, I should imagine, be large enough to contain most if not all the sculptures, without inconvenient crowding.

5. Should the estimate be sanctioned and funds provided I shall be happy, if you wish it, to undertake the work in which I am interested.

6. I return the book "Fergusson's Tree and Serpent Worship" with many thanks.

ORDER—dated 8th July 1884, No. 1525, Public.

The Superintendent's proposals are approved, and the amount of the estimate, Rs. 1,200, is sanctioned.

2. The cost of the wooden frame, Rs. 150, is also sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, with estimate.
" Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 8th July 1884, No. 1525.

JULY.

Archæology.

Approving the proposals of the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum on the erection in one of the halls of the museum of the sculptured slabs from Amarávati, and sanctioning the amount of the estimate of Rs. 1,200 for the purpose.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 28th April 1884, No. 843.

APRIL.

Archæology.

Passing orders on Dr. Burgess' letter in regard to the final disposal of the sculptured slabs from Amarávati.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 8th July 1884, No. 1525.

JULY.

Archæology.

Approving the proposals of the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum on the erection in one of the halls of the museum of the sculptured slabs from Amarávati, and sanctioning the amount of the estimate of Rs. 1,200 for the purpose.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From J. BURGESS, Esq., LL.D., Archæological Surveys, Western and Southern India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Hampi, 18th March 1884, No. 70.

I have now the honor to address Government on the question of the final disposal of the sculptured slabs from Amarávati which I selected in the early part of 1882 to be sent to Madras.

2. As is known to Government the number of these sculptures from Amarávati and Jaggayapet is very considerable, and many of them are of great beauty and archæological interest. They are carved on slabs of amorphous limestone of a greenish grey color of great specific gravity and very brittle. Some of the larger also are carved on both sides.

3. On my recent visit to Madras on the 10th and 11th instant, Dr. Bidie informed me that it was his intention to have them placed in the large room on the right side of the museum. I am somewhat doubtful whether so large a number of sculptures can be arranged in this room so as not to be too crowded for convenient examination; but however that may be, the safe carrying up and proper placing of these slabs without injury will be a work requiring no small care and ingenuity and can only be completed at a very considerable expense, perhaps more than Government anticipates.

4. I am inclined to think also that the salt in the atmosphere of Madras may act deleteriously on the surfaces of the stones turning them first to a dead white and ultimately causing the surfaces to become granular and scale off. In view of this it would seem to be desirable that the finest slabs at least should be enclosed in air-tight glazed cases, as has been done with the Amarávati sculptures now at the British Museum.

5. Again, several of the slabs were found broken and the pieces were separately sent carefully packed to Madras. It is very desirable that for these skilled workmen should be engaged to cement the pieces carefully together so as not to show ugly unworkman-like joints; indeed unless the pieces can be united with precision it will be much better not to attempt to put them together.

6. I desire to mention, moreover, that when I selected so large a number of stones for removal I did so with the expectation that Government would be ready to part with a few characteristic examples both for the Indian Museum at Calcutta and for the British Museum where they would be certain to be seen and examined by more people interested in them and able to appreciate their interest in one year than are likely to see them in Madras in a decade.

7. While such was my view, however, the Madras Government is aware that when a proposal was made that the Archæological department should transmit all such objects to the Indian Museum as soon as the papers were forwarded to me by the Bombay Government, I wrote a long minute in support of the claims of Provincial Museums, and it was finally arranged that these claims should be respected.

8. I leave it now entirely with the Government to decide whether any or what portion of the very large collection now at Madras should be allowed to be sent to other museums, or whether provision should be made for the complete exhibition and preservation of the whole series.

9. I have lately had the great majority of the sculptures carefully photographed to scale, and the negatives are now at my Poona office where prints will be taken from them for the purpose of enabling me to work up and publish my report on the two stûpas of Amarávati and Jaggayapet. When the photographic printing is being done it would be a matter of but comparatively small expense to print off a number of other sets, and I would suggest that Government might consider whether it would not be desirable to present a complete set of prints mounted to such institutions as—

The Government Central Museum, Madras,
Government School of Art, Madras,
The Indian Museum, Calcutta,
The School of Art, Calcutta,
The Government of India,
The Government of Bombay,
The School of Art, Bombay,

and any other institutions or individuals Government might think proper.

10. I may mention that for some years past I have been accustomed to print off some sets of all photographs taken for the Bombay Survey, one of which is always presented to Dr. James Fergusson. And I intend proposing that in future I shall be allowed to print one or more sets of the Bombay photographs for the Government of Madras. The cost of printing will be about Rs. 4½ or 5 per dozen prints, and the mounting will add a little more to the expense. If the number of sets were not very numerous the charge might perhaps be credited to the grant for the survey.

11. The last point I have to refer to is the preservation of the large number of sculptured slabs that still remain at Amarávati and Jaggayapet. The stûpa at the latter place might easily be preserved without expense and at very little trouble by the deputy magistrate.

12. At Amarávati the peon in charge might be occasionally visited by the tahsildar or other revenue officers of the district and kept up to his duty. Further excavations I fully expect will reveal many very valuable sculptures at that place, and I hope at some future date to revisit it and make further investigations.

13. Trusting this will receive the favorable attention of His Excellency in Council, I have, &c.

ORDER—dated 28th April 1884, No. 843, Public.

The Superintendent, Central Museum, will report the probable cost of housing the sculptures in the manner proposed in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Dr. Burgess' letter.

2. The Collector of Kistna will report on the proposals made for the preservation of the sculptures remaining at Amarávati and Jaggayapet, which appear to Government well calculated to effect the object in view.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To Dr. J. Burgess, Archæological Surveys, Western and Southern India.
„ the Superintendent, Central Museum.
„ the Collector of Kistna.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 28th April 1884, No. 843.

+ [illegible] Comm to P.W.D.

APRIL.

Archæology.

Passing orders on Dr. Burgess' letter in regard to the final disposal of the sculptured slabs from Amarávati.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 6297

From The Consulting Architect

Enclos.—

No. 660
Dated 23rd } July 1884.
Received 29th

Subject.

Forwards for perusal – Public Dept. G.O. sanctioning the erection of the sculptured slabs from Amravati in the Govt. Central Museum ~~stating that he has begun the work in anticipation of funds being provided~~

Disposal.

No. 426 E d/ Aug. 4th 1884

No. ~~426E~~ Dated ~~4/8/84~~.

Referred to the Financial Dept. with request that the amounts sanctioned may be formally placed at the disposal of the P. W. Department.

(Signed) J. Shaw Stewart
Col: R.E.
4. 8. 84. Secy. to Govt. P.W.D.

Despd 4/8/84

Cur. No. 6849.

From Finl. Deptt.:
No: 1836 Mis d/ 8.8.84

Subject as entered in the O.L. Sheet.

Placing certain sanctioned amounts at the disposal of the P.W. Deptt.

Sent to Madras 19.8.84.

+ G.O. No. 2059 W. d/ 21-8-84 in the Press.

23/8/84

G.O. 200 6 Wdl/70.7.83

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 12th June 1883, No. 1151, Public.

Read—the following letter from Dr. J. BURGESS, Archæological Surveyor, Western and Southern India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Rámesvaram, 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.

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.

Visit to 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.

Previous report on 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.

Dr. Burgess's work at Amarávati.

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

Number of Sculptures at Amarávati.

(*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.

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.

Present State of the Ruins.

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.

Stones at the Site.

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.

Original Cause of the Ruin of the Tope.

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.

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.

Recent Mischief and Local Custody.

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-*

Removal of Stones to Madras.

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 it's 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.

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 and in cement," I cannot refrain from entering a very stong 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 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 Jaggayapet 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 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 Amarávati, 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. 711, 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.

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 :—

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

	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.

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

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

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

" Ls's 2nd. 3rd & 5th Circles.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of {1883} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated July, 20*th*.

Read. *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 —.

for 1883–1884

By order

Commander Dun Supdt.

Office of Secy to A.G.G.C.I