

Memo 8632 ✓

Govt. of (1886) Madras.
PUBLIC.

134C

Communicated to
the S.E.V. circle for
information, in
Continuation of G.O.
No. 2070 W. dated 17th
August 1886.

Issued

Recd. 5/11/86

Encl.

G.O., 7th October 1886, No. 2102.

No. 2954 W a/10. 5/11/86

OCTOBER.

Archæology.

Recording, with remarks, report of work done
by the Archæological Survey Department from
the 20th July to 16th September 1886.

S.E.V. circle with 7-5. copy
S.E.V. circle Despd. 10-11-86

2 Copies to only
with order
in the order

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From A. REA, Esq., First Assistant, Archaeological Survey Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 19th July 1886, No. 115.

In continuation of this office No. 78, dated Madras, 18th May 1886, recorded in G.O., dated 10th June 1886, No. 1208, I have the honor to report on the work since accomplished by the staff up to date.

2. During the period under note no field operations have been conducted, the draftsman being solely occupied in finishing up the pencil drawings on hand. A large number of previous seasons' field work is in office. This is being carefully finished in ink, with all speed consistent with artistic workmanship. Forty drawings have been completed and despatched to the Director-General.

3. I have finished my report on the Pallava antiquities of Conjeeveram and sent it to Dr. Burgess. It includes a sketch of Pallava history; critical dissertation on the characteristics of Pallava architecture and art, with deductions drawn from comparisons of the style, with that of the Seven Pagodas, and various ancient works of the dynasty in other districts, and with Dravidian architecture generally; also a detailed description of the temples and their sculptures.

4. While in Madras, Dr. Burgess received a communication from Colonel Taylor of Vellore in reference to an inscribed stone in some fields near Pallavaram. On the 25th May last I despatched a draftsman to make a sketch and, if possible, to copy the inscription. Colonel Oakes, Cantonment Magistrate of Pallavaram, kindly placed a man at our disposal to point out the stone. The draftsman reported that the letters of the stone were so rough that it was impossible to make a copy and that they seemed quite modern. I have communicated with Colonel Taylor to see if there is no mistake in regard to the stone to which he referred. If the inscription was ancient, the stone might be removed to the Museum.

ORDER—dated 28th July 1886, No. 1572, Public.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India.
„ A. Rea, Esq.
Copy to the Public Works Department.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

7TH OCTOBER 1886, No. 2102, PUBLIC.

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READ—the following paper :—

From A. REA, Esq., First Assistant, Archaeological Survey Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 17th September 1886, No. 171.

In continuation of this office No. 115, dated Madras, 19th July 1886, recorded in G.O., dated 28th July 1886, No. 1572, Public, I have the honor to submit the following progress report of work since accomplished.

2. This being the "head-quarters" season, the draftsmen have been continuously engaged on duty in Madras. The pencil drawings, as completed, have been regularly despatched to the Director-General.

3. On the 16th instant, I proceeded to inspect the antiquities lately discovered during the excavations at Pallavaram. These consist of a large number of ancient tombs, of very curious and unusual character. They are in the form of burnt earthenware troughs, each averaging 6 feet in length and 18 inches across, rounded on the bottom and ends, and resting on eight or ten feet or more. Others again are simply large round chatties of the same red burnt clay, with one or two feet; the material is about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in thickness, and is similar to that now used for flower pots. The larger tombs are invariably placed between two boulders—one at the head and the other at the foot; and in several cases, the round tombs referred to are placed on the top of the larger ones. About forty in all have been laid bare, but the whole place seems to be filled with them, and many more can no doubt be brought to light; I discovered one just appearing above the surface of the ground at some distance from the group of those already excavated. They are very curious indeed, and quite different from any of the early tombs hitherto noted. They seem originally to have stood on the surface of the ground, and the boulders referred to were evidently intended to keep them in place; the group occupies a position on the slope of a hill, and the soil washing down has now covered them. Some bones and small chatties have been found in them. They have once been covered by lids or slabs of the same material as the troughs themselves, but as the soil has washed down and covered the tombs, these have all been broken by the weight of earth, and the troughs themselves filled with the soil and broken pieces of the lids. Several interesting suppositions might be made in regard to these relics; probably the round chatties contained the remains of the widow of the deceased husband who was placed in the larger tomb, for undoubtedly *sati* would be practised in these days. Then possibly the use of the earthen legs might have been to keep the trough above and clear of the ground; the fire of a funeral pyre, if so applied to the tomb containing the deceased, would then have free access around the receptacle, and everything would be burned up.

A native legend in regard to such tombs is, that in ancient times, people who lived over a hundred years were placed in a tomb, supplied with a few chatties containing water and food, and then left to their fate.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 28th July 1886, No. 1572.

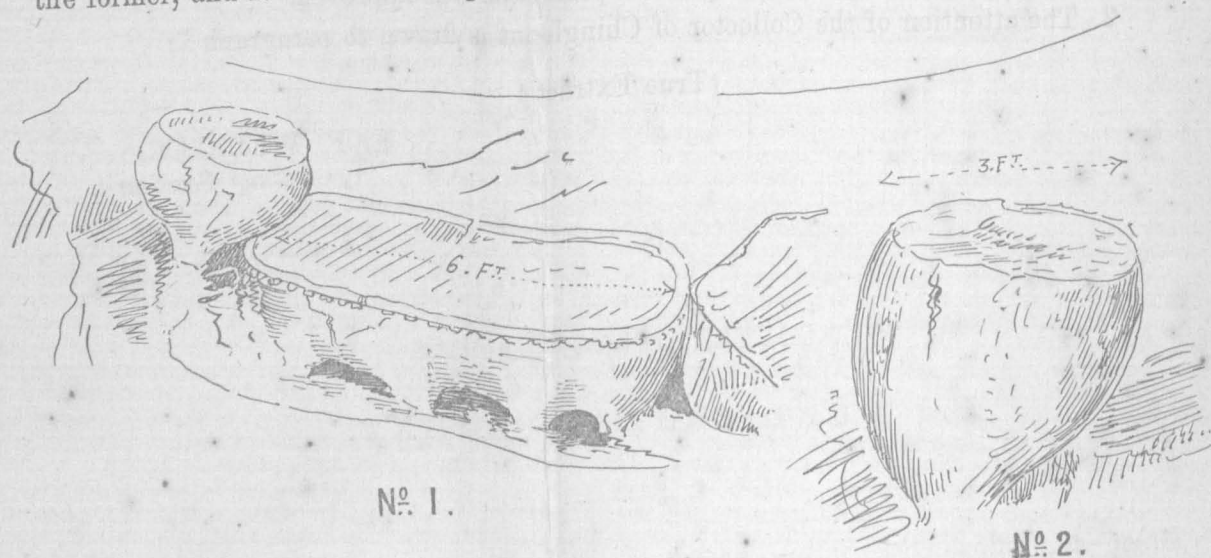
JULY.

Archæology.

Recording report of work done by the Archaeological Survey Department from the 19th May to 19th July 1886.

A.B.V.C. for information

4. I shew a few sketches of the tombs and their contents. Nos. 1 and 2 are the former, and Nos. 3 to 5 are specimens of the small chatties found inside.



5. The tombs laid bare seem at present to be well looked after, but as in several cases the earth has been cleared away from the exterior, and that filling the trough not cleared out, whenever the rains set in, the earth inside will swell and burst them. I expect, too, that on account of the soft, friable nature of the material, they will probably fall to pieces after they receive some rain. I would propose, therefore, that a few of the most typical specimens, complete, should be carefully removed and sent to the Museum.

6. I also visited the cave lately noted to be a Pallava excavation, and photographed by Dr. Oppert.

7. I was asked to examine some "ruins of houses" at a short distance from the tombs; I discovered the ruins to be a fine group of stone "circles," over a dozen in number, each averaging about 6 yards across inside diameter; the blocks composing each "circle" are about 3 or 4 feet in thickness, and laid closely together.

These are probably looked after, but it might be well that instructions be given to have none of them removed till at least one or more have been excavated, and the whole surveyed or photographed. Pieces of pottery lie scattered about these "circles," and excavation might reveal further discoveries.

8. Pallāvaram or Pallāva-varam, Pallāvā-puram (town of the Pallavas) was probably an important place in the days of that dynasty; and likely also in the time of the Cholas. I saw a Chola temple, with Tamil and Sanskrit inscriptions, and some ancient images at Trichalūr, close to these other remains; and there is at least another at Póchalūr, on the other side of Pallāvaram.

These give promise of further interesting discoveries, which may throw light on the customs and history of the Pallavas.

ORDER—dated 7th October 1886, No. 2102, Public.

Recorded. The proposal contained in paragraph 5 is approved.

2. The attention of the Collector of Chingleput is drawn to paragraph 7.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India.
" A. Rea, Esq.
" the Revenue Department.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Ms 2952 W a/10 Nov 78
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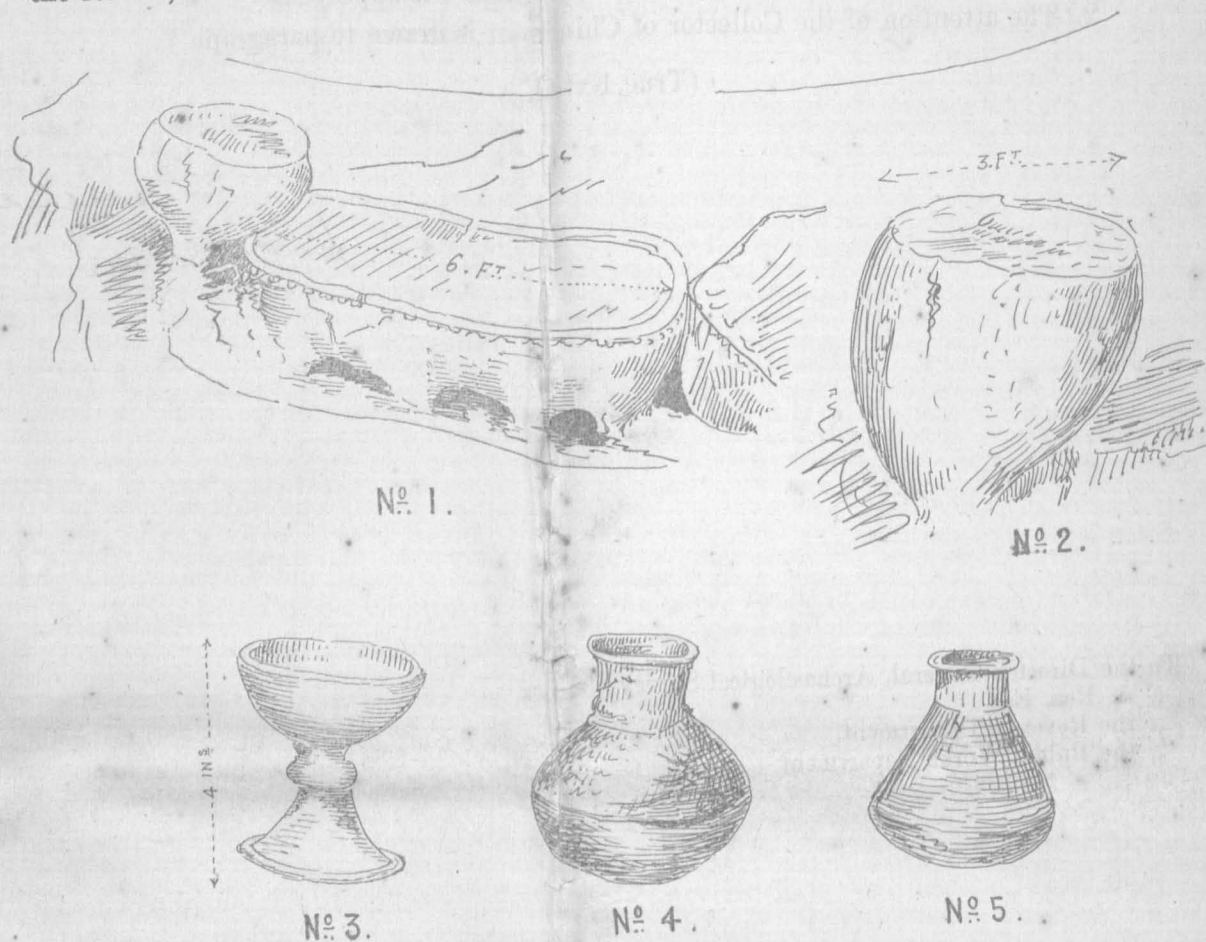
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H. Alcock

for Chief Secretary.

To the Director-General, Archæological Survey of India.

" A. Rea, Esq.

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" the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.