

28TH JULY 1886, No. 1572, PUBLIC.

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.

2070 W 4/17 August 86  
Recorded  
S. G. J. S.  
W

Govt. of (1886) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

2070 W 4/17 August 86

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

JULY.

Archæology.

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

18. V. C. for information.

7TH OCTOBER 1886, No. 2102, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

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

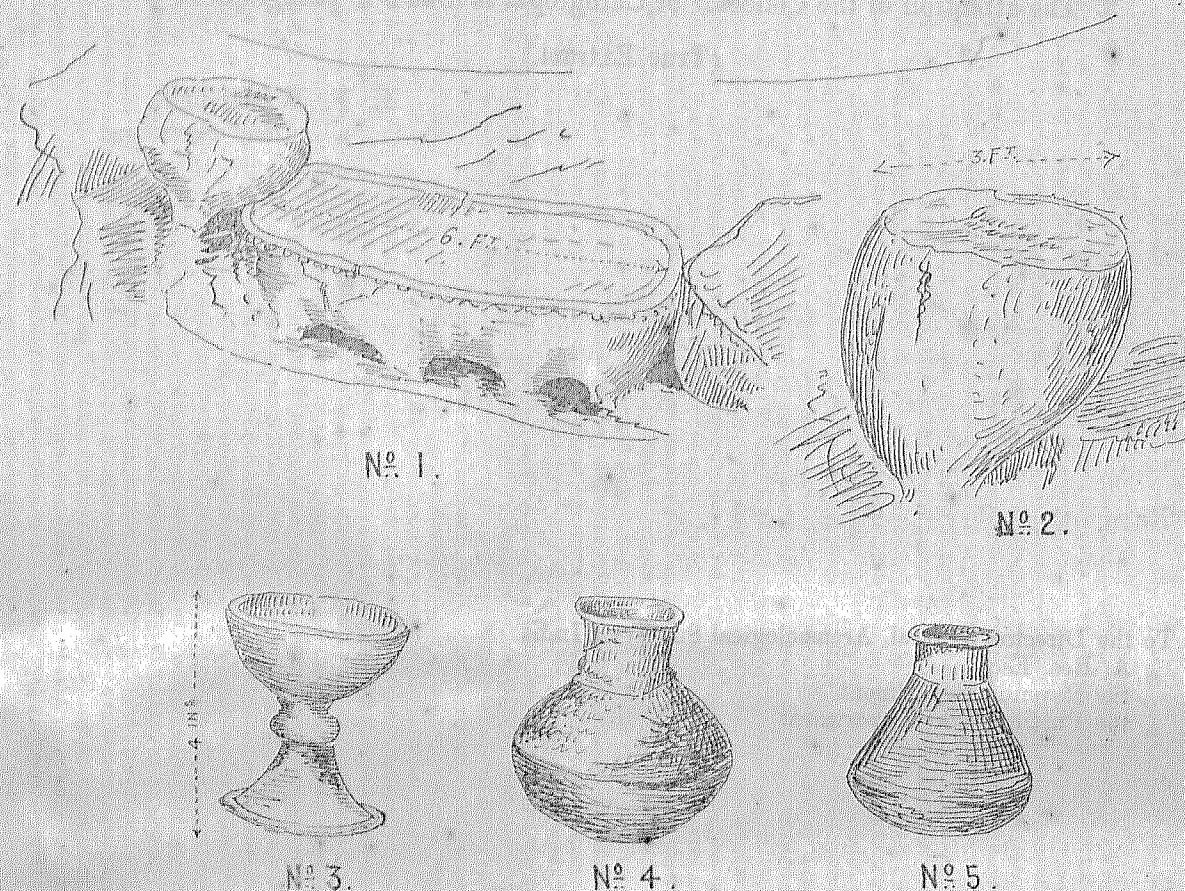
In continuation of this office No. 115, dated Madras, 19th July 1886, recorded in G.O., dated 28th July 1886, No. 1572, Public, I have the honor to submit the following progress report of work since accomplished.

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.

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 Pallāvā-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 Pōchalūr, 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, Archæological Survey of India.

„ A. Rea, Esq.

„ the Revenue Department.

„ the Public Works Department.

Govt. of (1886) Madras.

PUBLIC

Communicated  
to the S.E.V circle for  
information, in  
Continuation of  
G.O. No. 2070 W. dated  
17<sup>th</sup> August 1886.  
(Sd) J. O. H.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

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

OCTOBER.

Archæology.

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

25TH FEBRUARY 1887, No. 286, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From Dr. J. BURGESS, LL.D., C.I.E., Director-General of the Archæological Survey of India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Poona, 24th January 1887, No. 91.

I have the honor to forward herewith the progress report of Mr. A. Rea, First Assistant, Archæological Survey, for the last two months, which I consider very satisfactory.

2. I may add that I arrived in Madras on the 18th November and staid five days, when I examined the drawings made and in progress, and consulted with Mr. Rea on the details of his work. I then proceeded to Malabar and made a preliminary tour from Pálghat westwards and then northwards as far as Quilandy, visiting the most ancient sites, copying inscriptions in the Vatteluttu and Malayalim characters, and seeing generally what there is to survey and what arrangements may be required when that district is to be examined in detail.

3. I next made a hasty visit to some of the more notable Chalukya and Hoysala temples in Mysore, which the Government of India has arranged may be included with those in the Madras and Bombay districts. I returned to Madras on the 25th December, and on the 30th, in company with Mr. Rea and Dr. Hultzsch, I visited the ancient stone circles and graves at Pallávaram in company with the Collector and Mr. Thorowgood, of the Harbour Works, and reported on the same to Government (No. 2, dated 1st January 1887). There also a considerable number of old Chola inscriptions were obtained for Dr. Hultzsch. During this stay at Madras, I arranged all details for the season's work both with Mr. Rea and Dr. Hultzsch, and left on the evening of 3rd January 1887 for Bijapur, where I was required to consult with the Public Works Department officers on a large scheme of conservation.

4. Trusting the details in Mr. Rea's report and this letter will meet the approval of Government—I have, &c.

ENCLOSURE.

From A. REA, Esq., First Assistant, to the Director-General, Archæological Survey of India, dated Vellore, 19th January 1887, No. 17.

In continuation of this office letter, No. 212, dated Madras, 16th November 1886, to you, giving statement of work done during the previous two months, I have the honor to submit the following progress report of work since accomplished.

2. In the second week of December 1886, I proceeded in company with Dr. Hultzsch to Mahaballipuram, to complete my notes for a report on the previous survey of the remains. Photographs of the monolithic and excavated temples were taken. I also made a few slight excavations, and, as noted in my No. 261, dated Mahaballipuram, 19th December 1886, to the Chief Secretary to Government, I discovered a hitherto unnoted cave temple. I removed some of the soil in front, which covered the floor to a depth of 10 feet, so that the façade is now exposed to view.

3. The ancient basement which I found in front of cave, No. 25, is interesting, as from its details, it is certainly coeval with the cave itself.

S.E.V circle

With order

4. I also partly excavated the small structural temple about half-a-mile to the north of the village, and exposed two slender, 16-sided, fluted piers in the front façade and a large sculptured panel. This temple, though small, is an interesting one, and important, in being an example by which it may be possible to decide on the relative ages of these Pallava monolithic and structural temples.

5. At Saluvankuppam is a mound and rock, covered by sand, which may possibly be a cave temple. I believe that both at Saluvankuppam and Mahaballipuram, there are numerous remains as yet undiscovered which judicious excavation might bring to light. Traditional and other evidence point to Saluvankuppam as the site of an ancient seaport, and as the only temples which remain uncovered by sand are those placed on high ground, it is probable that numerous others may exist buried at present from sight.

6. After return to Madras, in company with you, I went to Pallavaram to meet the Collector and concert measures for the removal to Madras, at a convenient future date, of some of the ancient sarcophagi lately discovered near that place.

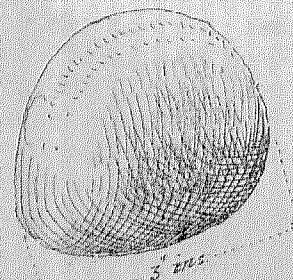
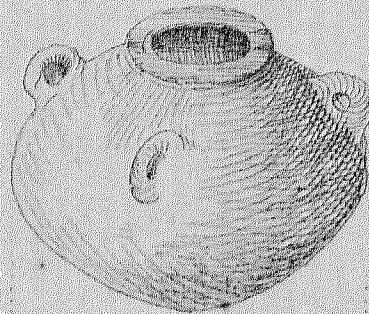
7. I then proceeded with the Survey staff to make the survey of the fine temple at Vellore, and other architectural and archaeological remains in the surrounding district.

From the camp here, I have visited the fine large temple at Virinjipuram. The work there is architecturally good, and I propose to survey it on completion of the Vellore temple. The inscriptions are also numerous, but in many cases are covered with whitewash which will have to be removed before they can be copied.

An old Muhammadan palace at Abdullapuram, three miles west of Vellore, has some good ornamental stucco work.

8. I have also visited a cave on the hill of Kailasagiri, believed by the natives to contain demons. I found it to be a natural cave, without architectural work or inscriptions of any sort. The neighbouring village of Cholapuram, traditionally the site of an ancient capital, has numerous Chola Tamil inscriptions. Images, lingas, and other remains lie about the fields in different directions, and the cultivators are said to be continually coming on red sand-stone pieces of buildings projecting out of the soil. A mile-and-a-half to the east is the village of Veppampetta, having a temple of the Vijayanagar period, partly ruined, with numbers of Tamil and Grantha inscriptions.

9. In excavating a sunk passage which I considered ought to continue round the sides of

N<sup>o</sup> 1.N<sup>o</sup> 2.N<sup>o</sup> 3.

the inner shrine of the Vellore temple, and which is found to do so, some interesting articles were discovered embedded in three feet of soil which covered this base. These are—a small black-stone image of Ganesa,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches high (Sketch 1); a small black stone weight, circular, and flattened on two sides, 3 inches diameter (Sketch 2); a curious earthen pot with three handles, said to be used for oil, and suspended by cords to the three hands (Sketch 3); a few other pieces of pottery, a piece of an old curry stone, some pieces of stucco images, old bricks, a moulded stone pedestal, and four stone shot, each  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter.

10. Colonel Taylor has in many ways aided us in our work here; and Mr. Loventhal,

Danish Missionary in Vellore, who has a very fine collection of coins, including the great majority of those belonging to Southern India, and who takes a great interest in such matters, has kindly brought to notice some inscriptions and other remains in the surrounding places.

ORDER—dated 25th February 1887, No. 286, Public.

Recorded.

2. Mr. Rea's letter, No. 212, dated 16th November 1886, to the Director-General, should have been submitted to Government.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,  
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India.

„ A. Rea, Esq.

„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raith

Gobt. of (1887) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 25th February 1887, No. 286.

FEBRUARY.

Recorded

(sd) J.O.H.

W

Archæology.

Recording report on the progress of the work done by the Archæological Survey Department since November last.

S. E. V. Circle

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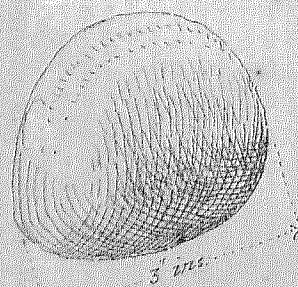
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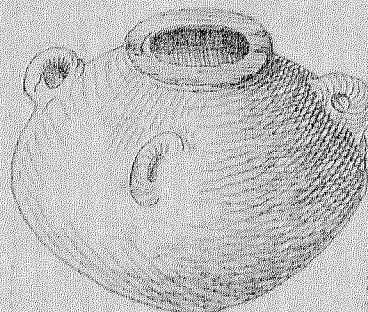
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No 1



No 2



No 3

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(True Extract.)

*W. Rea*  
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India.

„ A. Rea, Esq.

„ the Public Works Department.

Ed. A. Raitt.

2954-4 10.11.86  
9070-17 8.86

PM/P 2269 ✓

Govt. of (1887) Madras.

PUBLIC.

2954-4 10.11.86

PM/P 2269 ✓

Recorded  
Received

WVW  
01.9.87

for  
21/2/87

Issued

Recd.

17.3.87

Encl.

G.O., 25th February 1887, No. 286.

PM/P 2269 ✓

FEBRUARY.

Archæology.

Recording report on the progress of the work  
done by the Archæological Survey Department  
since November last.

S.E. V circle ✓  
S.E. V circle 22/3

for  
24/3

YAS/K

W. H. White order

B5