

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 20
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் Sep 89
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 16/8

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

(12)

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P.W.D. துறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	1945	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள் :	18-7-1889	198

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

25/7.

10 sheets

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From Dr. J. BURGESS, LL.D., C.I.E., Director-General of the Archaeological 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, Archaeological 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. Hultzsche, 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. Hultzsche. During this stay at Madras, I arranged all details for the season's work both with Mr. Rea and Dr. Hultzsche, 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, Archaeological 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. Hultzsche 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.

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 Cholaipuram, 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



No 1.



No 2.



No 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 1/2 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 1/4 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.

1925

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

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Exd. A. Raitt

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. Veinle

20TH APRIL 1887, No. 583, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:

From J. BURGESS, Esq., LL.D., Director-General of the Archæological Survey of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Lahore, 29th March 1887, No. 284.

I have the honor to forward herewith the progress report of Mr. A. Rea on the work of the Archæological Survey during the preceding two months.

2. Mr. Rea has carried out most intelligently his instructions as to the work to be done, and the results are very satisfactory. The amount of work is large, and his accurate discrimination of the styles and ages of the different temples, and even parts of the same temple, is of much scientific interest. This perception of style and relative age characterizes the archæologist from the mere dilettantist. When Mr. Rea's work is published—and I expect he will have a volume ready for publication in a very short time—its value will be properly understood.

ENCLOSURE.

From A. REA, Esq., M.R.A.S., First Assistant, Archæological Survey Department, to the Director-General, Archæological Survey of India, dated Virinjipuram, 19th March 1887, No. 74.

In continuation of my letter, No. 17, dated Vellore, 19th January 1887, embodied in G.O., dated 25th February 1887, No. 286, Public, I have the honor to forward the following progress report of field-work since accomplished in the South Indian circle.

2. On the 23rd ultimo I completed the survey of the large temple at Vellore. The drawings made include a large scale plan; transverse and longitudinal sections of the entire temple; elevational and sectional drawings of the large *gopura* and *kalyana mandapa*, and a number of sheets of sculptural and other ornamental details. The temple is one of the best examples of Vijayanagar architecture, and the sculptures in the *kalyana mandapa* are well known for their beauty of design and execution. One interesting matter has just been brought to light; the small inner shrine, around whose walls I found the old relics mentioned in my last report, seems, from an examination of its architecture, to be of Chola date. This temple would therefore seem to have been, like the majority of temples of the 15th or 16th centuries, simply a series of extensive additions to an already existing small shrine.

3. From my camp at Vellore, I despatched survey parties to Cholakuram, Veppampetta, Abdullapuram, Tellur, Puthupadi, Ganganellur and Nellavay.

The following list gives some of the places around Vellore surveyed or visited, and the drawings done at each:—

4. *Cholakuram*.—The traditional site of an ancient town. The old buildings have almost entirely disappeared; a few remains of temples, &c., are found appearing above the soil at various places. Drawings were made of a number of ancient images.

5. *Veppampetta*.—The temple here is in fairly good preservation, and has a number of inscriptions. It is, however, covered with shrubs which are destroying the masonry; suggestions have been made to have the vegetation removed. A plan, elevation and sections of the building were made.

6. *Abdullapuram*.—Has the remains of an old palace or mahal built in brick and ornamented with some good stucco work.

The general design of the building is effective, being a lofty central portion with wings containing bays of arched openings on each side. It is traditionally stated to have been the residence of a brother of the Nawab of Vellore. A plan, sections, elevation, and sketches of some of the stucco ornaments were made.

3

7. *Tellur*.—An old Chola temple, with inscriptions. Close to the west of this building is a large lake or tank, which is said to have been breached several years ago. The outflowing water is said to have been the cause of the partial ruin of this temple. A small, square field surrounded by a stone coping, on the south side of the temple, is pointed out by the people as the site of the tank attached to this shrine. They say it was silted over with earth through the breaching of the bund of the large tank. An old *ratha* or car, covered with brass-work, and some other articles, are said to have been washed into the temple tank and covered over with soil; they are stated to remain buried there to the present day. Inquiries might be made by the taluk officials into the authenticity of this story, and, if found true, an excavation may lead to interesting results, as the area of the temple tank is not large and it cannot be very deep. If this car was really washed in here, it cannot be more than a few feet below the surface. A plan, section and elevation of the temple were made.

8. *Pathupādi*.—A Chola temple, with semi-circular shrine and inscriptions. The drawings done were plan, section, and elevation.

9. *Ganganellur and Nellayay*.—Contain temples similar to the last; a similar series of drawings were completed.

10. From Vellore, I moved the camp to Virinjipuram. The temple here is generally the same in plan, and covers a somewhat larger area than the Vellore one. It however differs from the other in many important respects. One feature in the plan is specially interesting; the majority of the different structures embodied in the temple are of Vijayanagar date, but the central shrine is semi-circular in its plan. Till we undertook the survey of a number of Chola temples in the Chingleput district in 1885, this peculiarity of plan was considered very unusual. We found it occurring in a number of examples, but only in Chola works. The presumption therefore is, that this inner shrine at Virinjipuram is a Chola temple. I was not allowed inside to examine it closely, but the architectural detail drawings, combined with the plan, lead me to believe that it belongs to a period some centuries anterior to the rest of the works here. It is surrounded by a small court-yard, probably the original limits of the primary shrine; this court is surrounded by two outer enclosures.

Our work here includes a large plan, sections and details. I have also commenced a set of drawings of one of the large wooden cars which are dragged along the streets on festival occasions. These are covered with very good wood-carving; and, as we have not hitherto copied any of these necessary adjuncts to every large shrine, I think it should be an interesting addition to the series of drawings already collected.

11. From my camp here, I visited Melpadi and Vallimalai, whither I had previously despatched the head draftsman and another, to survey the remains there.

12. On the road I visited the large temple at Tiruvallam; it has a number of inscriptions, and is said to have a number of fine sculptures around the inner shrine; this temple will shortly be more fully examined, and, if necessary, a survey made.

13. At Melpadi there are two temples, which are beautiful examples of the finest Chola work. They are built of black-stone from the basement to the summit of the towers. One is deserted, so I was enabled to examine it thoroughly. The sculptured and moulded work is extremely good, and the inscriptions which partly cover portions of the shrine wall are cut in finely-formed letters of a very archaic type. One inscription is in an old form of Tamil, another is in Chola Grantha characters similar to those given in Plate XIII of Burnell's *South Indian Palæography*. This plate is very fragmentary, and if this inscription should be of a similar date, the blanks in the Palæographical table might be at least partially filled up. This temple is covered with prickly-pear and other shrubs, which are destroying the tower; these should be at once removed.

The other temple at Melpadi is in use for worship. From what I saw from the outside, the inner shrine is almost identical with the temple I have just noted, and the walls are, I am told, almost completely covered with inscriptions similar to the others. The large outer courts of this temple are late additions of the 15th or 16th centuries.

In a tradition regarding one of these temples, given in the *District Manual* (p. 161), it is stated that it is an ancient Jain temple now converted into one of Siva; and that the tradition attached to the place acknowledges the original Jain occupation. Four celebrated Brahmin poets are said to have converted the temple into a Saivite one by the recital of one of their sacred poems, which was to the effect that the moon did penance here to Siva, and made a yagam, which induced the svami to appear in human form and grant the moon's desires.

This tradition as applied to these temples is evidently without foundation, for all their sculptures are Saivite; moreover, the four *nandis* around the sikaras of the towers are almost certainly part of the original work, and would never have been put on a Jain building. The temples have therefore most certainly always been Saivite.

14. The tradition may, however, if applied to the cave temple at Vallimalai—a mile west of Melpadi—have some foundation in fact. The temple is situated at the top of a gorge in one of the hills, and is simply a natural cave with a number of rooms built in front to form the usual parts of an ordinary temple; the rock doesn't seem to have been excavated in any part.

Some sculptures—seemingly Jain—are cut on rocks on the east side of the hills to the right and left of this cave temple. In the inner shrine chamber of the temple is an ordinary Hindu image, but on the back wall of the cell—cut on the rock—is a figure, which from examination by the draftsman seems to be similar to the other Jain sculptures on the hill; it is partly plastered over, and the priests would allow none of it to be touched, so the point couldn't be clearly settled. One other matter, which would seem to point to this having been a Jain sculpture, is that, till within a few years ago, this innermost chamber was built up and the Hindu image was placed in the room immediately in front of it. Some Brahmins, out of curiosity, it is said, opened the inner shrine and placed their god there. The only part of the temple visible from the outside is the front *mandapa*, which is clearly Hindu in style. Taking into consideration the close proximity of the other sculptures on the hill, there is a possibility that some of the interior rooms of this temple may date anterior to the Saivite occupation; it may have been a sort of *Vihara* or residence of the Jain priests. If the tradition noted above has any foundation in fact, the probabilities point to this place having been Jain, and afterwards used as a Saivite place of worship by the building of the *mandapas* in front and the plastering over of the rock-cut sculpture, thereby preventing any but Brahmins from investigating the matter. Some curious traditions exist in regard to the hill; one is to the effect that it was named after Valli, the wife of Subramanyasvami, of Tirutani. The people of the place call the hill Vellimalai; they say it was in the time of the Hindu occupation formed of gold; when the Muhammadans came into power, it became silver, hence the name; when the English gained the country, it was transformed into its present material.

15. The other sculptures referred to are in three places: one set, to the north-east of the hill temple, midway up the hill, is cut under a projecting ledge of rock. They are very well executed and show three groups of Jain figures sitting cross-legged, with umbrellas over, and attendants. Some very archaic inscriptions are cut on the rock close to the sculptures.

The group south-west of the temple is situated about the same distance up the hill as the other, and is in three panel-groups; the principal figure, Parivanath, with a *naga*, occupying the central panel. A short distance to the left is a large, seated figure, with lesser figures in the ledge of rock underneath. A broken Jain figure was also lying beside these, with two massive posts, and a large moulded stone, somewhat like the top of a *dagoba*. Drawings and photos have been made of all these.

16. General plan and sectional drawings were made of the cave temple on the hill, and complete drawings of the fine temples at Melpadi were also executed.

17. A Chola temple at Erukampett, three miles from Melpadi, was also surveyed.

18. On completion of these works, I directed two draftsmen to proceed to Sholinghur, where there are a number of fine temples. They are at present engaged in surveying these works.

19. Several other small Chola temples have been noted at various villages, but it was neither advisable nor possible to survey all of them. The smaller temples already surveyed serve as good examples of the majority of them. A mile east of Virinjipuram are two villages, one on each side of the road: one is Poygai (der. falsehood), the other is Satyamangalam (village of truth); at the former is a small Chola temple with inscriptions; at the latter another, and a long inscribed stone in a field.

Inscriptions in this part of the district are very numerous, both in the temples and on detached stones in the villages. The earliest works as yet visited during the tour are—with the exception of the Vallimalai sculptures—of Chola date.

ORDER—dated 20th April 1887, No. 583, Public.

Recorded.

2. The attention of the Collector of North Arcot will be drawn to paragraph 7 of Mr. Rea's interesting report.

(True Extract.)

H. E. Cohen
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India.

" A. Rea, Esq.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. A. Raitt.

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G.O., 20th April 1887, No. 583.

APRIL.

Archæology.

Recording with remarks Mr. Rea's progress
report for two months ending 19th March 1887.

S.E.V. Curlewite
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11TH JUNE 1887, No. 803, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From A. REA, Esq., M.R.A.S., First Assistant, Archæological Survey Department,
to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 19th May 1887,
No. 172.

In continuation of my previous letter to the Director-General, Archæological
Survey of India, dated Virinjipuram, 19th March 1887, No. 74, embodied in G.O.,
dated 20th April 1887, No. 583, Public, I have the honor to forward a report on
the work of the past two months, concluding the field season, 1886-87.

2. From my camp at Virinjipuram I visited any surrounding villages reported

Pallikonda.

large, is an inferior specimen of 16th century work. I am told it receives a grant of
Rs. 1,200 annually from Government: but from all appearances the amount might
be better expended. The building is not in the state of repair which one would
consider desirable, and the principal source of expenditure seems to be whitewash.
The temple is said to have ample funds of its own, and there is little or no need why
Government should pay a subsidy to a temple that little deserves it, archæologically
or otherwise. A considerable financial saving might be effected, if Government
discontinued these annual payments to this and other similar temples, which probably
mostly go for the support of a number of lazy Brahmans. This kind of grant seems
rather anomalous, when it is considered that Government declines to sanction funds
from the conservation grant for the repair of such temples when used for worship; the
principle which applies in the one should hold good in the other case also. If the
payment of such annual grants is still to be continued, there are numerous temples of
a better class which at present have nothing, but are more deserving of grants—which
might be applied to their preservation—than such comparatively inferior structures as
the one under note.

3. On completing the survey of the large temple of Virinjipuram, I proceeded

Tirumalai.

steep, precipitous mass of huge rocks. It is charmingly situated, and the surrounding
country is pleasantly varied by dense masses of jungle and hills on all sides. Several

Devikapuram.

enclosure on the summit of a hill, and another very large one at the base, similar
in size and style to the temple at Virinjipuram.

4. All the antiquities at Tirumalai are Jaina, and are scattered about the face

Antiquities at Tirumalai.

the base of the hill some distance up its side. The principal shrines are two in number,
and situated on the west side of the rock.

Temples.

in itself, with entrance gopura, porch, shrine and tower. A large courtyard wall

5

encloses, not only this shrine, but another larger one which is placed almost in a line to the west of it, but on a platform about 25 feet higher up the hill. This last temple is at present being completely restored. The two buildings, though comparatively large, are of no great importance archaeologically. They evidently, in parts at least, date from Chola days, or about the 11th century; but as they are very similar to others already examined, it was scarcely necessary to survey them.

5. The chief objects of interest are the rock-cut Jaina sculptures, paintings and rock inscriptions. Close behind the temple, the rock shelves inwards, forming a series of natural caves. In one of these, some chambers have been built up in brick, forming a number of rooms, which were probably once on a time the residence of the Jaina priests attached to the temple. The brickwork of this portion seems from all appearances to date from about the 15th century. The walls are built entirely under the overhanging rock, which has subsided slightly, and seems in danger of crushing them. The building is extensive, going inwards beneath the rock for a depth of about 45 feet, and extending along its face for over 90 feet; none of this has been excavated, the whole being a natural cavity filled in with brickwork. On the left, a stair leads up to a first storey, containing a small shrine dedicated to Dharmadévatha. Its back wall is formed by the rock, which is sculptured with a fine set of four figure panels; these cover a surface of 12 feet by 4 feet 6 inches. The left panel shows a standing female figure richly jewelled, grasping in her left hands, what appears to be, a plantain palm 6 feet high; her left foot rests on the head of a lion. Four smaller figures occupy the back ground. The panel on the right has a typical Jaina figure standing on a lotus, with a snake beside him, and branches rising up in front. A female figure stands on each side. The next panel has a figure sitting cross-legged; chowrie bearers and ornament occupy the back ground. A standing figure with snake hood and attendants occupy the panel on the extreme right.

Rock-sculptured panels.

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6. On the right of this range of buildings, another stair leads to the upper storey of the *Vihara*, as it may be called. The most of the rooms are on this level. The brick walls, both internally and externally, have once been completely coated with plaster, and this has been used as the ground-work for a series of remarkable paintings, which have evidently covered their whole surface. Those on the exterior have mostly disappeared through the scaling off of the plaster, but in the interior, some remain in fairly-good preservation. The ceiling of the upper storey is formed by the under side of the overhanging rock, and this also has been decorated with some pleasing designs in colour. Two distinct periods of painting are observed, for in one place some painted plaster has scaled off, and shows another set of paintings on a plaster surface beneath it. The best of the *frescoes* is a circular panel about 3 feet in diameter with a Jaina figure occupying a disc in the centre; from this radiate a number of lines subdividing the panel into a set of smaller ones. Each of these is occupied by different figures variously grouped; one shows a number of worshipping nuns with white hoods, another lions, elephants and other beasts, and so on. As a rule, the other paintings are very fragmentary, having mostly either scaled off, or been partially destroyed by the damp. The geometrical and floral designs on the ceilings are bright and effective in their coloring, and are in fairly-good preservation.

Vihara.

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Paintings.

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7. Almost on the summit of the same side of the rock, at a height of nearly 100 feet from the ground, is a brick porch with a small cupola, built on a ledge or natural platform on the hill face. It shelters and forms the shrine for a remarkable, rock-cut, Jaina sculpture, representing Sigamani Nathar. The image is a large one, being 17 feet in height; the hands measure 2 feet 6 inches, the arms 9 feet 6 inches in length, and the breadth across the chest and arms is 6 feet 9 inches.

Colossal figure.

forms the shrine for a remarkable, rock-cut, Jaina sculpture, representing Sigamani Nathar. The image is a large one, being 17 feet in height; the hands measure 2 feet 6 inches, the arms 9 feet 6 inches in length, and the breadth across the chest and arms is 6 feet 9 inches.

Inscriptions.

8. There are a number of lengthy inscriptions in old Tamil characters cut on various parts of the hill.

9. In addition to the rock sculptures, there are a number of fine Jaina images in different parts of the place.

Images.

Close to the west side of the hill is a fine tank, and a mound with some stones, marking the site of a previous temple. Some large sculptured stones are near; one stands upright, it measures 4 feet 6 inches in height above the ground, and 7 feet 3 inches broad. It represents an armed warrior with two females standing on each side, and may possibly be a *sati* stone.

10. At Tirumalai; elevation, section and plans were made of the *Vihara*; a few of the best paintings, including the circular panel aforementioned, were copied in colour; and drawings of the rock sculptures and other images were completed. The inscriptions, which are in Chola Tamil of about the eleventh century, were copied by Dr. Hultzsch, who accompanied me thus far.

Drawings.

sculptures and other images were completed. The inscriptions, which are in Chola Tamil of about the eleventh century, were copied by Dr. Hultzsch, who accompanied me thus far.

11. The rock sculptures are in much the same style of art and apparent date as those lately examined at Vallimalai. No attention is now paid by the people to the sculptures at the latter place; but those at Tirumalai are regularly worshipped.

Style of sculptures.

12. The head draftsman, while working at Sholinghur, surveyed six temples, all large. Two of them, evidently from peculiarities of the site, show some very unusual arrangement in their plans; the outer walls are polygonal, and some other interesting features make them specially worthy of note.

Sholinghur.

One temple has some carved pillars rivalling in intricacy of workmanship and design the fine piers in the *Kalyana Mandapa* at Vellore.

Another pillar in a *mandapa* is of a rather original design, and quite different in style of architecture from the building in which it now is. It is not unlike, in some respects, some of the elaborate piers seen in a few of the northern caves.

13. The rock-cut temple at Mahendravadi was also surveyed. It is cut out of a single boulder, but is not designed so as to form the outline of a structural building, like the *rathas* at Mámallapuram.

Mahéndravádi rock-cut cave.

One side only is excavated, so that in plan it is exactly like the plainer and earlier rock-cut caves at Mámallapuram. The boulder measures 32 feet across the front, and 19 feet in height. The vestibule has four massive piers, and the same number of responding pilasters on the side walls. The shrine is a small rectangular chamber, and enters directly from the vestibule; a *dvárapála* is sculptured on each side of its door. On one of the pilasters are four lines of an inscription in archaic characters.

14. The style of this excavation is identical with similar works at Mámallapuram, Mámándúr, Narsapálayam, Siyamangalam, Pallávaram, and other places. As I expected, its examination fully supports my theory—advanced after I discovered in 1885 that the Mámándúr caves were the work of the Pallavas—that all these rock-cut temples are the work of the ancient dynasty which in the early centuries ruled over the greater portion of the Southern Peninsula.

Style of Mahéndravádi and other Pallava caves.

As I expected, its examination fully supports my theory—advanced after I discovered in 1885 that the Mámándúr caves were the work of the Pallavas—that all these rock-cut temples are the work of the ancient dynasty which in the early centuries ruled over the greater portion of the Southern Peninsula.

Head Quarters.

15. The members of the Survey staff returned to Madras at the end of April.

1245

6

B No 1305 W 12-5-87
877 W 22-3-87
No 1832 W of 7th July/87
B

P.W.C. 5005
Govt. of (1887) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Recorded in
Recorded in
continuation of G.O.
Contⁿ of G.O.
No. 1305 W dated 12th
No. 1305 W. 8
May 1887
12th May 1887

4-7-87
5/7/87

Issued

Recd. 1-7-87

Encl.

G.O., 11th June 1887, No. 803.

No 1832 W of 7th July 1887

JUNE.

Archæology.

Recording, with remark, progress report by
Mr. Rea, of the Archæological Survey, for the last
two months.

f. & v. c. 8/7/87
Copies to Mr. Rea

0-4-7-87

Public Department.



1945

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following paper

From the First Assistant Archæological Survey, Madras,
dated 7th November 1887, No. 358

In forwarding in original a petition received
from the village brunsiff of Tirumalai requesting a grant
of money for the repair of certain temples and caves there,
I have the honour to make the following remarks.

2. The temple or temples referred to, are or
were being repaired for the purpose of adapting them
for worship; a grant by Government for the purpose is
therefore inadmissible.

3. - As to the caves; if money has not been already
sanctioned, a sum of Rs 100 (one hundred) might be
usefully spent in the preservation of certain of them.

Referred to in my
report No 172 of 19th
May 1887 para 6 under
item in G.O. No 803 Pub.
lie 27th June 1887.

These are situated behind the temple, and consist of a
number of ancient brick buildings placed in natural
caves or hollows extending along the face of the overhang-
ing rock. These chambers are specially interesting from
the number of ancient paintings on their surface. Some
of the walls were during my visit in 1887, in a rather
dangerous condition, and any money sanctioned
should only be spent on such repairs as may be neces-
sary to make them safe. Strict attention should be paid
by

by the Local P.W.D. officials that the paintings themselves are in no way injured by plaster or white wash, or defaced by any attempted restoration, as in them lies the chief interest the remains possess. It is to be feared that unless carefully looked after, these paintings may possibly be whitewashed and the chambers in which they are, completely "restored" or otherwise smeared over with plaster so as to convert them into store-rooms for the use of the temple.

4. - No money should be expended on the other rock-cut caves, as any attempt at restoration would inevitably result in the destruction of any interest they may possess.

Order: 22 November 1888. No. 1090

Para 2 of Mr. Rea's letter will be communicated to the Village Council of Jimalai. Para 3 of the latter will be dealt with in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract)

H. H. H.
Assistant Secretary

To: The Public Works Department.

H. H. H.

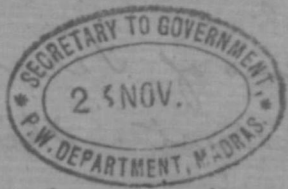
1945

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[6]
• Colt. of (188) Madras.

To
The Mr Dept

Proceedings, dated 22-11-1888.
No. 1080



Subject.

Repair of Certain
Temples at Ior-
malai. Peter Saluk
A. Crest D.

With order

No 2362

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

V. CIRCLE, MADRAS.

Braganza 8 July 1859

From

Colonel W. H. Burton R.E.
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER.

V CIRCLE.

To

THE Chief Engineer

Public Works Department.

SIR,

I have the honor to request you will be so good as to appropriate Rs 100 for repairing Caves of Tirumalai Hills in North Arcot District. This amount had been appropriated in G. O No 3758 W of 28. November 1888 for Expenditure in the last official year but was not spent owing to his not having framed and sanctioned an Estimate in time.

2 An Estimate has since been locally sanctioned for Rs 100 in the current official year for execution when funds are available.

I have the honor to be,

Sei

Your Most Obedt Servant

W. A. Sutton

Col R. E.

[0 Supg: Engineer v circle

8. 1882 3780 7 24. 11. 88
 . . . 1882 3780 7 7. 7. 87
 . . . 1305 3780 7 12. 5. 87
 . . . 877 3780 7 22. 3. 87

1884 5 3780 7 12. 5. 87

A sum of Rs 100 is
 appropriated from the reserve
 with the Govt for the con-
 servation of Archaeological
 Works, for repairs to the caves
 of Sirmatalai Hills in the
 North Arcot District.

13. 7. 89

15. 7. 89

PTC No. 6345

From

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

V CIRCLE,

(2)

To

THE Chief Engineer
 P.W. Department.

Dated 8 July 1889.
 Recd. 10

ENCLOSURES.

No. 2362

Caves of Sirmatalai Hills

Requests to appro-
 priate Rs 100 for
 repairing—

10

With Rs due

CV

To
 The S.E. & Chief
 P.W. Accts.

12/7

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