

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1054	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	11-10-	1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
11th October 1865.

No. 45. Read the following letter from D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Vizagapatam, 6th October 1865, No. 807.

I beg to enclose two Rupees coined by Mohammed Shah, Sultan of Delhi, from A. D. 1719 to 1748, which I purchased at Rupees 1-12-0 each (the silver being very pure), for the Government Museum, from the finder. They were lately discovered, with some dozen others of the same reign, by a Ryot of the Palcondah Taluq, in his garden. Sanction for Rupees 3-8-0 is requested.

2. Treasure trove (the owners thereof being unknown, and the rights of the Crown not being alienated by grant) belongs in England to the Sovereign by prerogative. From the harshness with which this rule falls upon the finder, contempts of the prerogative, by concealment of the treasure, have been so frequent, that a recent Statute enacts that the finder shall receive from the Crown the intrinsic value of his discovery.

3. It would be in the interests of Archæology, if finders in this Presidency, who are treated by Regulation XI of 1832 with remarkable liberality (every thing up to a lac of Rupees in value being theirs, where the owner is unknown) were required to part with the treasure to Government on similar terms. The Government, of course, could not lose any thing, nor the finder either, unless he happened to be an antiquarian, when the Government would always deal with him tenderly. But he is generally a ploughman.

4. At present, the finder is invariably so harrassed (as this man was) by the village authorities and the Police, that he resorts to the melting pot with all possible secrecy and despatch. If, however, it was known that he was a trustee for Government, and that he would ultimately get from Government the full value of the treasure, except in the (very improbable) event of an owner being found for it; he would be ready to avow the discovery, and public servants would be less venturesome with the various methods of extortion now in vogue in such cases.

No. 46. ORDER THEREON, 11th October 1865, No. 1054.

The charge of Rupees 3-8-0 is sanctioned as requested, and the coins will be forwarded to the Superintendent of the Government Museum.

2. The subject of reserving to Government, by law, the right to purchase, at full intrinsic value, from the finder, such articles of treasure trove as, on archæological grounds, it may be desirable to secure for the public, will be brought under the consideration of the Government of India.

(True Extract).

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum, with two Coins.

„ Collector of Vizagapatam.

„ Accountant General.

„ Legislative Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Received from the Chief Secretary's
Office 2 Coins referred to in Proceedings
of Government Public Department
No 1054 dated 11th October 1865.

Central Museum
Madras 14th Oct^r/65.

Forster
Superintendent
Central Museum

11th October 1865 No. 1052.

The charge of No. 3. 8. is to be
as requested - and the coins
will be forwarded to the ^{Superintendent} ~~Custodian~~
of the Brit. Museum.

The subject of securing
the right to purchase
at full intrinsic value from the finder
such articles of treasure found as
on archaeological grounds it may
be desirable to reserve for the public
will be brought to under the consid.
of the Govt. of India

To the Secy of the Brit. Museum - with 2 coins despatched 14/10
- despatched 14/10