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M.B.O. 1-29,000-16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	87	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
Dated	29-1-	1966.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

29-1-66

No. 92. Read the following letter from the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 17th November 1865, No. 219.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Government Order of the 16th of November 1865.

2. I am sorry that I am unable to submit the list of coins desired by the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, as there is not, so far as I have been able to learn, any published catalogue of the coins current in India, say, during the present century.

3. The only list of modern Indian coins with which I am acquainted are those contained in Prinsep's tables (2nd volume of Prinsep's Indian Antiquities, by Mr. Thomas, formerly of the Bengal Civil Service). This book contains two tables of gold, one of silver, and one of copper coins ; but the lists are confessedly incomplete, and were they not so, I should be unable to say which of the coins can be found in the Bengal Presidency.

4. I beg to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, and of the Government of Bengal, that the simplest way of giving the Museum a complete collection of the coins obtainable, with the least trouble to every one (except myself), would be to send me one good example of all the coins (gold, silver, and copper) that can be obtained in every District, with the understanding that I shall return all duplicates, which would be readily recognized when the coins were brought together. The coins of the British Government in India, and those of all European nations are readily identified by any one who can read the language of their inscriptions, but it is far otherwise with the purely native coinage of India. Here the inscriptions are frequently so imperfect, that the coin can only be recognized by one who has seen it before, or, sometimes, by known symbols. Mr. Prinsep has given a catalogue and a plate of the symbols he found on all the coins in the Calcutta Assay Office and in his own collection ; but this also is incomplete, and some of the localities, he said, were doubtful.

5. I have only asked for one example of each coin, but I do not mean by this only one coin of the same ruler. Mussulman rulers usually placed upon their coins the year of the Hijra, and also the year of their reign in which the coins were struck. Now, if a king reigned for 30 or 40 years and had made frequent issues of coinage, of which the first and last might have been struck in the first and last year of his reign, it is evident that a coin struck in the middle of his reign would by itself be of comparatively little value as an historical record, and that the coin of the first and last year, at least, should be added, whenever it is possible to do so. I have taken the liberty to mention this, as it is a point that would very likely be overlooked by any one who was told to send only one example of each coin.

6. I would also take the liberty to request that the coins sent be as perfect specimens as may be procurable. It is by no means an uncommon thing for the letters on Native coins to be obliterated either by wear, by punch marks, or even by having been struck with a hammer. It is scarcely necessary for me to observe that such coins are of little use in a collection, and should not be placed there if better are procurable.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.

29th January 1866.

No. 93. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 29th January 1866, No. 87.

With reference to my letter of the 23rd August last, I am directed to forward the enclosed copies of letters from the
• 18th October 1865, No. 5900
† 17th November 1865, No. 219.
Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal* and from the Superintendent of the Government Museum,† and to

draw attention to the request made by Captain Mitchell, in his letter of the 8th August last, which had reference to coins current or lately current in the several Native States, as well as to coins issued by the several Governments (meaning thereby the Administrations of British Territories) which have not been current at Madras. Captain Mitchell does not, of course, require any of the ordinary coins now current throughout the British Provinces. The Governor in Council would suggest that, if there should be no objection, the proposal made in the 4th paragraph of Captain Mitchell's present letter should be acted on, viz., that one good example of each coin that can be obtained in every District should be sent to him, on the understanding that Captain Mitchell should return all duplicates. A copy of this letter has been sent to the Government of Bengal.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

I think that it would be very desirable that the Museum should possess a complete set of Indian Coins as far as possible & perhaps the more profound the acquisition.

I don't if the plan would have any useful result - Few old coins are to be picked up in the District now a days - & few collectors understand or feel any interest in the subject -

This part is found at the foot of India Cap' Mitchell's request for one example of each coin current or lately current in the several Native States except Hyderabad in the Deccan & Mysore - One set

Sept 1865
No. 87
To the Secretary to the Government of India

Public Department.
No. 87.

To
The Secretary to the Government
of India.

Home Department.

Sir,

With reference to my
letter of the 23rd August
last, I am directed to
forward the enclosed copies
of letters from the Officiating
Secretary to the Government
of Bengal and from the
Superintendent of the Govern-
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in his letter of the 8th August
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to coins current or lately
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Native States, as well as
to coins issued by the
several Governments (meaning
thereby the administrations
of British Territories) which
have

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27 Nov 65. 21.5500

have supposed that such coins
-plus would not have been handed
to get from the Political Agents
in those Native States, but of
course we can't tell what the
coins may be.

Why our application should
have been furnished on the
part of Bengal who have nothing
to do with Native States, it is
not easy to say, unless it was
that the S. of I. did not read
our letter, or did not want to
take any trouble in the
matter. J. P. W. V.

have not been current—
at Madras. Captain
Mitchell does not of course
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out the British Provinces.

The Governor in Council
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acted on, viz, that one
good example of each coin
that can be obtained in
every district should be
sent to him, on the under-
standing that Captain
Mitchell should return
all duplicates. A copy
of this letter has been
sent to the Government of
Bengal.

Fort St. George }
29th January 1866 }

Encl^d

Copy sent to the Govt of Bengal }
with a view to Mr. J. C. Bailey }
att^{ch} 4000 Rs. 8-57-00 }

1867/8 1868

Public M^t. Department

c 1867

in a copy to the Sec^y
of Studies

dated 20 January 1868.

Ms. 504. 1370-

Government of India
orders on the subject of
certain coins required for
the Madras Museum

92-95