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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.
Public 428

G.O. No.	37-8	Press Mis.
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10/3/57

India Office;
London, 9th December 1867.

Public.
No. 165.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable the GOVERNOR GENERAL of India in Council.

SIR,

I OBSERVE with much interest from the Despatches, with enclosures, noted in margin, that the important subject of conserving the ancient Architectural Structures, or their remains, and other Works of Art in India has attracted your attention, and that, under your instructions, the Governors in Council of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, and the Heads of other Provinces in India, have had the matter brought under their notice, with the view of, in the first instance, obtaining the requisite information regarding all such Structures, and of, at the same time, having them photographed.

2. In connection with this subject, I have to suggest that the same opportunity be taken of having measurements and plans, as well as photographs, taken of at least the buildings of most importance; and also that two copies of all such should, from time to time as soon as produced, be forwarded to this Office. It is likewise desirable that the names of the persons who have been instrumental in taking the photographs and plans should be also sent, with a written description of the different subjects.

3. With respect to the photographs, the arrangements made regarding these should secure that the negatives themselves become the property of Government, and be thus available for re-productive purposes, which involve operations that in all probability can be not only more economically, but more effectually, accomplished here,—as in the India Museum attached to this Office facilities exist for printing by the carbon process, whereby results as permanent as engravings are, I understand, obtained.

4. In addition to plans and photographs, the importance of taking casts of parts of various buildings, calculated to exemplify the different styles of Indian architecture, has been lately brought to my notice by the Lords of the Committee of the Council of Education in a letter* which

* Dated 30th July 1867.

† Dated 6th December 1867.

I annex, together with copy of the answer† which I have caused to be returned to it, with the view of obtaining for the Department of Science and Art such illustrations as might be useful for the study of art in this country.

5. The suggestion made by them is accompanied with an offer to share the expenses which would be so incurred; and as it is probable that duplicates of the casts in question might, with advantage, be exhibited in at least the more important of the Museums in India, I have to request your attention to this subject, for the purpose of, in the first instance, ascertaining to what extent facilities already exist for taking plaster casts of large size where the materials and skill for so doing are to be found, and generally of procuring such information as will enable some estimate to be formed of the probable expenditure which the suggested undertaking would involve.

I have, &c.,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

68/Jan/1868

From NORMAN MACLEOD, Esquire, Assistant Secretary, Science and Art Department, South Kensington, London, to the Right Hon'ble Sir STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE, Bart, M. P.,—Dated the 30th July 1867.

I AM directed by the Lords of the Committee of the Council of Education to draw your attention to the important question of Indian architecture, and to inquire if the Indian Government will be disposed to co-operate with the Department of Science and Art in obtaining such illustrations as would be useful for the study of art both in India and in this country.

My Lords are not aware that, at present, there is any organization in India which could be employed in making a survey of the finest monuments, and in taking plans and making photographs and casts of them. To form one may, perhaps, be somewhat costly, but if the expenses were divided between the Indian Government and the Department of Science and Art, for the benefit of their respective Museums, the expense ~~annually would not fall heavily on either~~ would be small. My Lords desire to express a hope that the suggestion will be favourably entertained; and, if so, they would propose that two Members of the Indian Council, with Dr. Forbes Watson, should be placed in communication with Mr. Cole, Mr. R. Redgrave, R.A., and Colonel Scott, R. E., in order to discuss some practical plan which may be hereafter submitted for the consideration of the Lords of the Committee of the Council of Education and the India Board.

From H. MERIVALE, Esquire, C. B., Under Secretary of State for India, to NORMAN MACLEOD, Esquire, Assistant Secretary, Science and Art Department, South Kensington, London,—Dated India Office, London, the 6th December 1867.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th of July last, calling attention to the desirableness of obtaining illustrations of Indian architecture, and suggesting, for favourable consideration, that an organization should be formed in India for the purpose of surveying monuments in that country, as well as for taking plans and making photographs and casts of them.

In reply, I am desired to request that you will inform the Lords of the Committee of the Council of Education that, since the receipt of your letter, information has been received from the Government of India, to the effect that it has already taken steps to establish an organization for the purpose of collecting information and of taking photographs of the various Architectural Structures existing throughout India.

The important subject of representing the different styles of Indian architecture by means of casts is not alluded to, but I am instructed to inform you that Sir Stafford Northcote has, in a Despatch which will be transmitted by an early mail, directed the attention of the Government of India to the matter, with the view of, in the first instance, ascertaining to what extent facilities do already exist for taking casts, and of procuring information on other points bearing upon the probable cost of the suggested undertaking; as also for the purpose of obtaining from the Government of India an opinion regarding the extent to which such casts, if taken, might be disposed of with advantage in India.

As soon, therefore, as a reply has been received from India, I am instructed to say that the Lords of the Committee of the Council of Education will be communicated with again on the subject.

No. 930

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Home Department, (Public), under date the 24th February 1868.

READ the Circular addressed to the several Local Governments (a) and Administrations (b) noted on the margin, dated the 29th August 1867, requesting their attention to the subject of conserving ancient Architectural Structures or their remains, and other works of art in India, and desiring the submission of Lists of all such Structures, and a report of the measures, if any, adopted in preserving from time to time all such objects of architectural interest within the limits of the several Presidencies and Provinces.

Read the Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 165, dated the 9th December 1867, communicating certain suggestions with reference to the proceedings above mentioned, reported to him in the Despatch of the Government of India, No. 163, dated the 6th September 1867.

(a) Madras. Chief Commr., Oude.
Bombay. " " Central Provinces.
Bengal. " " British Burmah.
N. W. Provinces. Resident at Hyderabad.
Panjab. Commissioner, Mysore.

RESOLUTION.

On further consideration of this important subject, His Excellency the Governor General in Council is led to form the opinion that the first step towards a satisfactory attainment of the objects in view is to require the insertion, in every Annual Administration Report, of a separate Chapter on Archaeology, under which heading the Local Governments and Administrations should be requested to notice the condition of all works of art mentioned in the lists required of them under the instructions contained in the Circular of the 29th August last.

2. Petty repairs, or measures which may be necessary for the preservation of these structures, should be dealt with also by the Local Governments; operations on any large scale being referred for consideration to the Department of Public Works.

3. But in the matter of obtaining casts and photographs of the most important works of ancient architecture in India, the Governor General in Council considers that it will be best to proceed in the first instance experimentally.

4. The process of preparing casts is not difficult, and information obtained from Mr. H. H. Locke, the Principal of the School of Art in Calcutta, confirms the belief that men can easily and speedily be instructed in the art, who already possess some slight elementary knowledge as modellers or even as potters of a superior class. Probably fair modellers may be procured at Lucknow for the work in the Upper Provinces.

5. The work of training may commence during the ensuing hot season and rains in the several local Schools of Art, and be confined to a set of men who should be employed in modelling at first the fragmentary remains of ancient art to be found in the local Museums, some of which are worthy of being so modelled and sent Home.

6. A single party for each Province should thus be trained for the work; and, when fully trained, employed during the cold weather, under the general superintendence of some one qualified for the task, in taking a complete set of models of one or more large buildings.

Copy of letter to Sir Stafford Northcote dated 18th July 1867

(2)

7. A party of ten or twelve, for example, would, in the opinion of His Excellency in Council, be probably able to make casts of all those portions of such a building as the Sanchi Tope, as may be desirable to re-produce. Each party should be placed under the immediate superintendence of some intelligent Subordinate of the Public Works Department, who should be solely employed on the duty, and should reside on the spot. It will be his immediate province to see that the modellers carry out the orders of the Superintending Officer.

8. The modellers should prepare what are called "waste-moulds," and then "piece-moulds" on the spot; these last should be made, if possible, in a convenient form for removal, and from them any number of casts can be prepared.

9. These piece, moulds, or casts, as may be most convenient, should be transmitted to the seat of Government, or other place selected as the Head Quarters of the General Superintendent, and from these the requisite number of casts will be prepared and sent to Europe.

10. Whilst the modellers were engaged at work, the Public Works Department Subordinate should also be employed in preparing accurate plans and measurements of the entire building. Arrangements could likewise be made for procuring photographs of it from such points of view as may be necessary and which should be indicated by the Officer superintending the operations. A written description should also be procured from some competent person for publication in England, with illustrations from the plans and photographs of such of the details (which the casts would give) as may be thought expedient. One or two such Memoirs for each party during the year would, in all probability, be sufficient for the present.

11. As regards the cost of these proceedings, they may be estimated, by a rough calculation for each party for the first year, as follows:—

Training 12 men for eight months, at Rs. 20 each	2,880	0	0
Pay while in the field, say, at Rs. 60, for four months	2,880	0	0
Pay of a Public Works Department Subordinate to supervise, say, at Rs. 300, for four months	1,200	0	0
Charges for photographing, say	6,960	0	0
" for gypsum, or plaister of Paris, say	*1,000	0	0
" on account of contingencies	2,000	0	0
	2,000	0	0
Total	11,960	0	0

(* This is for a Professional Artist.)

12. The Officer superintending will also be paid for his visitations and superintendence, which would probably raise the cost to about Rupees 13,000 for each party.

13. His Excellency in Council would propose for the present to have only four parties working, viz., one party in Madras, one in Bombay, one for Lower Bengal and Behar, and another for the North-Western and Central Provinces, at a cost of Rupees 52,000 per annum.

14. It is suggested that the Local Governments might allow the experiment to be carried on at first under the charge of the Principals of the Schools of Art and Design at the Presidencies, who would train the men, and then be deputed to take them out to work on the building which may be selected for their labors. They should visit their parties once or twice during the season. In the North-Western Provinces the services of Lieutenant Cole, R. E., might, with advantage, be secured, should he be willing to undertake the duty, and if the Department Public Works will allow him to

(3)

undertake it. The selection of the work or works to be experimented upon should be left to the Local Governments. In the Upper Provinces the Sanchi Tope and others in its vicinity, and one of the Orissa Temples in Bengal, would, perhaps, be fit subjects. Much assistance in the execution of this project may be obtained from local Officers interested in archæology, and regard may conveniently be had to this point in selecting the locality of the experiment.

15. Some difficulties may be encountered in procuring a sufficient supply of plaister of Paris. It has been ascertained that the School of Arts in Calcutta has found itself compelled already specially to import gypsum from Europe, but gypsum of good quality exists in various parts of India; and in Madras, it is believed that Dr. Hunter already uses a coarse kind, and supplies it far more cheaply than if it were imported from Europe.

16. The Governor General in Council would be glad if the Local Governments directed their attention to this point.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of the foregoing Resolution, and of the Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 165, dated the 9th December 1867, and enclosures, be forwarded to the Local Governments (a) and Administrations (b) mentioned on the margin.

Also, that a copy of the Resolution, and of the Secretary of State's Despatch referred to, be forwarded to the Foreign Department for communication to the Commissioner of Mysore and the Resident at Hyderabad.

Further, that a copy of the Resolution, and of the Despatch from the Secretary of State mentioned therein, be forwarded to the Financial Department.

Ordered also, that a copy be sent to the Department of Public Works.

(True Extract.)

C. D. B. Ryer

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

6 Sp. on (Paris)

No 29 October/87 Nov 25/87

Walter Little to England 24/12
April 1890 1891

10 March 1891

Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst. in relation to the above matter.

Yours faithfully,
W. Little

Enclosed find the same

No 428

Communications for the
attention in the subject of
proceeding & all matters of
order in the same

With a receipt

Chas. H. 1887

Feb 21 George
10 March 1888

Standard of the school of
Industrial Arts for any
organization that he may have
to offer on the subject.

W. Little
Master Secretary.

Referred to the Chairman.

April 1891. No 23/4.

With 2 specimens
to the authorities.