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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

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Dated	23 - 1 -	1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
23rd January 1869.

No. 118. Read the following letter from the Director of Public Instruction, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 22nd December 1868, No. 2878.

I have the honor to submit a letter from the Superintendent of the School of Arts, No. 386 of the 21st instant, with correspondence enclosed, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. It will be seen from what Mr. Fergusson says, that photographs of buildings, without accompanying plans, are of comparatively little value. I would suggest, therefore, that, when a photographic expedition is sent out, a trained Surveyor and Draughtsman should be attached to the party. I imagine the Principal of the Civil Engineering College would have no difficulty in providing a person of the right stamp.

3. I cannot but think, also, that, in every case, an attempt should be made to glean as much information as possible, regarding the objects photographed, and that a brief Memoir, or body of notes, should be written in connexion with each building. It is probable that such Memoirs would, if not excessively brief, contain several mere conjectures or even errors; but these would gradually be replaced by correct notices in the course of further investigations.

4. I take the liberty of suggesting that an expedition should be sent to explore, photograph, and draw plans of the extremely interesting architectural remains at Bijanuggur, or, as it is now called, Humpy. I believe that Captain Lyons has lately visited the place and photographed some of the ruins; but the monuments there deserve a searching examination, such as that gentleman had neither time nor means of making. I speak with the less hesitation as I visited Humpy in the course of my late tour through the District of Bellary; and I must say that I have seen nothing elsewhere equal to the elaborate, and allowing for the period of execution, exquisite specimens of carving to be met with in the locality.

5. So far as I am aware, little or nothing is known of the history of Bijanuggur in its palmy days, or of its decline and fall; and it would be of considerable value, not only to the antiquarian but to the historian, if light could be thrown upon the subject. Inscriptions are found on some of the stones, and most probably others would be discovered on a searching examination. These should be copied as accurately as possible; and, if a black pigment were inserted in the hollows of the characters, it is likely that photographs of the inscriptions might be taken, which, under a magnifying glass, would yield important information.

6. The Tahsildar of Hospett, who was formerly a teacher in the Bellary Provincial School, and is an energetic and intelligent man, has himself made attempts to take a copy of one of the inscriptions. His interest in the matter might be turned to account in obtaining traditional information, and in aiding the labors of an expedition such as I have suggested.

From the Superintendent of the School of Industrial Arts, to the Director of Public Instruction; dated Madras, 21st December 1868, No. 386.

I have the honor to forward copies of some important correspondence connected with the School of Arts, which I think it my duty to bring to the notice of Government, and shall feel obliged by your submitting it to His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. From the correspondence with James Fergusson, Esq., Architect, London, you will see that the photographs of antiquities taken in the school are appreciated, and are likely to prove of use. Arrangements have been made for continuing to take these photographs, and during the Christmas holidays young men will be sent to the Coimbatore district for this purpose.
3. A number of casts have also been taken of the finest pieces of ornament in several Pagodas. Copies of these are being made in terracotta, and will be submitted to Government shortly. Three young men will accompany the Photographers to take casts from very fine sculptures, and an Artist will accompany the party to take drawings, plans, and measurements of the buildings.
4. The correspondence with Colonel R. Maclagan, R. E., Secretary to Government, Punjab, is of a similar nature to the correspondence that has lately taken place with the Secretaries of Schools of Art established at Bundara, Chanda, Raipore, Nagpore, and Jubbulpore, in the Central Provinces, and will explain itself. Upwards of thirty Schools of Art have been established in various places in India, without entailing extra expense to the Madras Government.
5. Applications have also been received from the Superintendents of several Jails, as at Bangalore, Coimbatore, Ootacamund, and Port Blair in the Andaman Islands, for machinery, tools, teachers, and suggestions, for introducing employments for the prisoners. These requisitions have been attended to, and machinery has been supplied for the manufacture of string, fine thread, rope, and whip cord; also for the splitting of bamboo and rattan for making fine mats, table-mats, chicks, and blinds, and patterns have been supplied for brass ornaments for the corners of boxes and rattan baskets, so as to combine a little ornament with strength and utility in this manufacture. It is found that in large Jails there are always some prisoners who can be taught carving, in-laying, or useful ornamental works, and as these prove more remunerative than the ordinary labor of prisoners, there seems to be no reason why they should not be introduced into Jails, when the Officers in charge apply for such assistance.
6. There have been several applications from Officers in the Corps of Engineers, and in the Public Works Department, for advice and assistance in the manufacture of improved qualities of building, draining, and ventilating materials, and for the raw materials used in their manufacture, and in glazing. Samples of these have been furnished with the receipts for glazes, and arrangements have been made for giving instruction to officers, and others, in the manufacture and glazing of pipes, tiles, and building materials.
7. The Reverend G. Plebst, of the German Mission, has already established a successful manufacture of roofing tiles at Mangalore, and wished to learn the processes of making them stronger, and of glazing them. I had arranged to receive Mr. Plebst, and to teach him these and other processes which he was desirous of introducing in the manufacture; but as his health has failed, he has made the suggestion of sending, in his stead, an experienced man from Germany to our school, to see what we have done, and to give us assistance if required. This is a good suggestion, which, I think, may prove of benefit to the school, and I shall be happy to afford assistance, as it will not entail expense to Government.

MY DEAR DR. HUNTER,

I yesterday had the pleasure of receiving the tin case of photographs of Conjeveram and Diggoo Hoblum, which you were kind enough to send me, and for which accept my best thanks.

2. In the first place let me congratulate you on the progress your pupils are making in the Art; these are far superior to any I have received from you before, and the only point on which they have not been quite successful, is the deficiency of transparency in the shadows. Would not a little longer exposure get over this?

3. I may also call your attention to another point. When no plans or detailed descriptions exist it is most essential that general views should, if possible, be taken so as to enable us Cockneys to understand the arrangements and dispositions of the buildings. I am in great hopes, however, that the Government will assist you in plan drawing, and that next cold weather the illustrations of the architecture of the Madras Presidency may be seriously attempted.

4. Meanwhile let me remark that I fancy you exaggerate the antiquity* of the Hoblum Temple. I have sent the photos. to be mounted, and have not, consequently, had time to study them; but my impression is that that Kistna

Deva is he who sat on the throne of Bijanuggur in 1524, and that the temple is, consequently, of 16th century.

5. If I had a few more examples, I fancy I shall be able to speak positively on the subject. At present I cannot.

6. I should like immensely to see Captain Lyon's photos., though, if they are numerous, the price he puts upon them is rather beyond my means; but the Government will surely buy a set for the India Museum, where I can get access to them.

7. I shall look forward with impatience to the further supply you had despatched in about six weeks, and if they are accompanied by any information about the snake jewels at Madura, in Seringham, I shall be doubly grateful.

8. As I said in my last I shall expect an account from you soon, and will settle it in any manner you may point out. Remaining meanwhile,

20 LANGHAM PLACE,
26th June 1868.

Your much obliged
(Signed) J. FERGUSSON.

MY DEAR DR. HUNTER,

I did not answer your letter of 17th September by the last mail, because I was promised that I should have a photograph of the Ghiberti gates, of a set of spoons, &c., before this. The sun is of course in fault, but by next mail I will send you something. There is, however, considerable difficulty in executing your commissions just now. Cole is in Italy; Forbes Watson in Scotland, and everywhere but where they should be. I will, however, not forget your wishes, and do what I can.

2. I am delighted to hear you are going on photographing, and shall be most grateful for anything you can send me. I hope before Christmas to be able to send you a copy of my big book. It is passing rapidly through the press. It will show you what I know, and also too clearly what I don't, but what I hope you and others will help me to find out. Your photos. are invaluable to me in this respect.

3. Anent the "Indecencies" I quite agree with you it would never do to publish or circulate them extensively, and you are the best and only judge whether you ought to allow your young men to take them; but I confess I would like very much to see them even if I burnt them afterwards. Some very important questions depend for solution upon them; 1st. Are they all Vishnava? So far as I know they are not found in any temples of *Siva*, but only in those of *Vishnu*. Is this so? 2nd. How old are they? Are there any anterior to A. D. 1000? and when were they most in vogue? These and many other questions have come before me in the course of my reading, but remain still in nubibus.

4. I hope you are taking measures to have plans of temples added to your collection of photographs. To us they are painfully unintelligible without these adjuncts.

5. I am much obliged by the trouble you have taken in making a selected list from Captain Lyon's photographs for me; but I confess the result disappoints me. Except the one of Ramisseram they are all of places of which I already possess illustrations, and as they are so high priced I must forego the luxury of possessing them. It is a great pity Indian photographs are so expensive. I must purchase when they are of places I want, because they are my tools, and I cannot do without them; but the public wont look at them, and consequently there are no means of rendering them familiar with the beautiful objects you possess. Take one instance, when Mr. Hope was at home, we published three volumes containing more than 300 photos. of Indian Architecture. The price of these was 27 guineas, or less than two shillings a plate, without saying anything of the woodcuts, the text, printing, binding, &c. The public, however, said they were too dear, and would not buy. I think we sold two copies of one, and three of another volume; while this is so,

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to ask 8 shillings for a photograph of a place nobody knows, and without any explanatory text and plans, is simply prohibitory, and the consequence is that Photography which might do so much, has done and is doing nothing towards interesting the English public in Indian antiquities. I feel this strongly for it is frightful up-hill work trying to interest any one, or in getting anything done here.

6. As soon as Mr. Cole returns I will have a talk to him about your casts. I am quite sure he will be most anxious to procure a set, and if you will let me know what you charge for them I feel confident of being able to send you an order, or would you prefer a swap? What say you to a cost of the Ghilberti gates for an equal surface of Indian antiquities.

I will write again shortly, and meanwhile remain,

20 LANGHAM PLACE,
29th October 1868.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) J. FERGUSSON.

MY DEAR DR. HUNTER.

I send you, herewith, the only photograph which I have been able to procure in the direction you desire. I have been disappointed in getting a large photo. of the Chiberti gates; it is not to be had in London, and I may be obliged to send to Florence for it, if I find that Mr. Cole on his return can do nothing for me.

2. I am quite sure that no photos. exist of the Apostles at St. Peter's, and the only illustrations of them are in "Pistolins Vaticans," and other big and very expensive works. I presume you have at Madras Agincourt's Histoire de l' Art par les Monuments; a cheap edition of it was published in this country by Owen Jones. It is not first rate, but quite good enough for school purposes; but the work you should have, if you have not it already, is Cicognara Storia della Scultura. Your scholars would, I fancy, be more improved by working from outlines, than from thoroughly finished copies. The last sheets of my book are passing through the press with all their imperfections on their heads. Before it goes to a second edition, if it ever does, I must organize an Indian Photographic and Archæological Information Exchange Company with unlimited liability; but meanwhile remain,

6th November 1868.

Your's sincerely,
(Signed) J. FERGUSSON.

From the Superintendent of the School of Industrial Arts, Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, Public Works Department; dated Madras, 25th February 1868, No. 378.

In reply to your letter, No. 30746, dated 4th October 1867, regarding some specimens of the kaolin or porcelain clay found at Dalhousie in the Chumba Territory and in the district of Gooran, I have the honor to inform you that the specimens of kaolin arrived safely, and that I have tested them and tried their working qualities; they are very fine and almost identical with specimens of kaolin which I have lately received from Vienna and Paris; they are nearly free from both iron and lime, containing only the faintest traces of these substances, and they burn to a pure white, and stand intense degrees of heat.

2. In order to utilize them it will be necessary to add burnt quartz and felspar to them, to give strength and durability to the wares, and to enable them to stand proper glazes.

3. Should it be the wish of the Honorable the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab to attempt to introduce the manufacture of improved descriptions of pottery, terracettas, and porcelain, samples of all the materials, tools, and machinery employed, with models and engravings of the furnaces and plaster-moulds and casts of elegant articles could be supplied hereafter from the Madras School of Arts, for payment.

4. I have been so busy lately sending off teachers, ~~is~~ and machinery to other Schools of Art that I had not time to reply sooner. Twenty-two schools have already been supplied with teachers and lessons, and twenty-nine have been started in different parts of India. An Illustrated Report of the operations of the Madras School, for the last two years, is now in the press, and will be forwarded to you shortly.

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23rd January 1869.*

From the Superintendent of the School of Industrial Arts, Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, Public Works Department; dated Madras, 18th December 1868, No. 379.

I have the honor, in reply to your letter, No. 6683, dated 3rd December, to inform you that I have prepared the following machinery, tools, and raw materials used in making pottery, porcelain, and terracotta wares, and in the glazing and coloring, and could despatch them, with models of our furnaces and Illustrated Reports on our School, by coasting steamer to your Agents in Calcutta, if required.

2. We are also training some young men, three of whom could afterwards be sent to give instructions in the European methods of making, firing, and glazing pottery, and in the manufacture of useful and ornamental building materials; they would expect to be paid Rupees 30 per mensem each, and their travelling expenses.

3. I append lists of the articles and machinery with their prices; but in addition to this there would be a considerable sum to pay for packing and freight to Calcutta.

4. Should the Honorable the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab desire to have samples of our ornamental vases, terracotta building and decorating materials, these could also be sent. I append lists of them with their prices. Illustrations of a number of them are given in the reports on the School, now forwarded.

List of Machinery, &c.

	RS.	A.	P.
1 Potter's Lathe with cast iron fly-wheel	15	0	0
1 Table Whirler.....	3	0	0
1 Modeller's Whirler.....	10	0	0
1 Large Potter's Lathe with fly-wheel.....	70	0	0
1 Vertical Potter's Lathe.....	50	0	0
Modelling Tools.....	24	0	0
Model of Furnace.....	25	0	0
Raw materials used in Pottery.....	10	0	0
Glazing materials.....	15	0	0
Painting and coloring do.	15	0	0
Samples of Pottery (small articles).....	10	0	0
Do. glazed.....	15	0	0
3 Copies of Reports.....	3	0	0
Total...	265	0	0

List of Terracottas, &c.

1 Large Vase with Dolphins and Nautilus Shell.....	20	0	0
1 Shallow square Vase with Stand.....	10	0	0
1 Large ornamental Tazza with Stand....	30	0	0
1 Large ornamental Tazza with Stand....	35	0	0
1 Large Vase with pedestal copied from Majolica Vase (for Park)...	10	0	0
1 Do. melon-pattern Vase.....	10	0	0
2 Sets of Clam Shells for Pedestal to grow ferns.....	10	0	0
Perforated balustrades of different patterns, glazed and unglazed.	3	8	0
1 Large Corinthian Capital.....	15	0	0
1 Small Composite do. with base.....	10	0	0
Filters for Ice, &c.....	3	0	0
Flooring Tiles of sizes and of colors, glazed and unglazed.			
Fire-bricks, at 40 Rupees per 1000.			
Corrugated Roofing Tiles, at 30 Rupees per 1000.			
Stoneware Pipes from 1 inch to 12 inches, glazed and unglazed.			
Stone Jars and Bottles, glazed and unglazed.			
Ornaments in Terracotta from antiquities.			

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Garden implements :—

Plough.....	35	0	0
Harrow.....	35	0	0
Grubbers.....	20	0	0
Rakes.....	3	0	0
Mometies, from 1 to 3 Rupees.			
Hoes.....	0	12	0
Steel Forks.....	3	0	0
Shears, 3 to 8 Rupees.			
Bill Books, 1 to 4 Rupees.			
Garden Knife.....	1	0	0

(Signed) A. HUNTER, M. D.,
Supt., School of Industrial Arts.

From the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, Public Works Department, to the Superintendent of the School of Industrial Arts, Madras ; dated Lahore, 3rd December 1868, No. 6683.

I am desired by the Honorable the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab to express a hope that you may be able to carry out the proposal made in the 3rd and 4th paragraphs of your letter, No. 378, dated 25th February last, of which His Honor the Lieutenant Governor in my letter, No. 2336, of the 22nd April, expressed his wish to avail himself. His Honor desires that the manufacture of an improved description of pottery should be introduced into the Punjab, and he will be glad to receive the Priced List of the tools, machinery, &c., used at Madras, and the Illustrated Report of the operations of the School of Art.

MY DEAR DR. HUNTER,

I duly received your kind letter of the 20th August, regarding my coming to Madras. I am sorry to say that I was, in the month of October and November, not well enough to leave the Hills. Now since I am here at Kaity I feel much better, and hope to return to Mangalore in the month of February, where I have to stay for a few days in order to pack my boxes, so that I may, D. V., leave India for Europe at the beginning of February next. I am, therefore, very sorry indeed that I am not more able to come to Madras, and pay you a visit as I intended to do. I would have been so very glad to see you and your school. As far as I can guess, our Committee intends to establish another tiling business in Malabar, and to send out a proper man. If I come Home I would propose our Committee to send such a man before he begins his work to you, in order to become acquainted with the different methods you use in your school. Would you kindly allow me to make such a proposal to our Home Committee.

The receipt for the glazing, which the Moplas on the Malabar Coast use, is as follows :—

	RS.	A.	P.
54 lbs. red-lead	9	2	10
27 „ sand	0	10	0
13 „ chalk	1	10	0
7 „ borax	1	12	0
101 „ cost	13	2	10

The sand is crystal sand powdered, the chalk is the common chalk with which they write on the blackboard, brought from Europe. I do not know whether you can get cheap borax at Madras. However, as far as I know, borax can be procured cheaply in India, as there is a very extensive use of it amongst the Natives, and I should think Bombay ought to be a good place to buy it. The

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above price I paid in the shop at Mangalore. Greater quantities, if bought, can certainly be procured cheaper. The glazing which I had in my mind to apply to common pottery is as follows :—

	RS.	A.	P.
50 lbs. sand	0	14	0
40 „ soda	2	4	0
5 „ saltpetre	2	8	0
10 „ chalk	0	10	0
105 „	6	4	0

The soda is the common washerman's karaw, and the chalk is the common one.

This glazing is very cheap, and if properly applied resists all vegetable acids and all greasy substances, and at the same time the glazing is very wholesome as it contains no lead. By adding some borax it would be still superior. As far as I heard from Mr. Schaffler, the gypsum has not yet arrived at Calicut. Would you kindly order your Agent to send it as soon as possible. May the Lord bless your work, and grant you good health, and let you work for many years more in India.

Believe me, &c.,
(Signed) G. PLEBST.

KATY, 11th December 1868.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1869, No. 95.
No. 119.

With reference to the letter above recorded, the Proceedings of Government, 2nd December 1868, No. 1478, will be communicated to the Director of Public Instruction.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Director of Public Instruction, with No. 1478.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of 1869: *Minutes*.

PUBLIC.

T.

**THE DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.**

Dated January, 23rd.

Recd.

Exd.

G. O., 23rd January 1869, No. 96.

**JANUARY.
Nos. 118-119.**

Communicating Proceedings of Government,
2nd December 1868, No. 1478.

No. 2878

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

MADRAS, 22nd Decr 1868.

From

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
Madras.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

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6. The Tahsildar of Borspet, who was formerly a teacher in the Bellary Provincial school, and is an energetic and intelligent man, has himself made attempts to take a copy of one of the inscriptions. His interest in the matter might be turned to account in obtaining traditional information, and in aiding the labours of an expedition such

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I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J B Powell
Director of Public Instruction

Govt. of {1868} Madras.

Public

The Dir. Pub. Instruction

23 Jan. 23

No.

R.

Encl.

O. F. 23 Jan 1868, No. 95.

Nos. 118-119.

*Young. Pros. Govt. 2 Dec.
1868 at 1478.*